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NEWSPAPER: 12-PAGE BUSINESS REVIEW SECTION PLUS 18-PAGE WEDNESDAY REVIEW

A special report
audiences



THE INDEPENDENT

WEDNESDAY 31 MARCH 1999

(1R50p) 45p



This is the reality of war. Two mothers, five children, seven days of bombing, 250,000 refugees. And no hope

DARKO BANDIC/AP

WAR IN THE BALKANS

Primakov meets Milosevic
Six hours of talks between the Russian Prime Minister and the Serb leader gained little
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Butchery in two cities
The Great Terror in Kosovan cities of Pec and Prizren
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Aid operation begins
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New bombing system
Nato deployed a new bad-weather bombing system
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"The regime in Belgrade is basically a Nazi regime"
Aaron Rhodes,
International Helsinki
Federation

BY ROBERT FISK in Belgrade

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- **New bombing system begins** *page 5*
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- **Leading article, Anne McElvoy** *Review, page 3*
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- **Timothy Garton Ash** *Review, page 5*

Furthermore Nato, according to Mr Primakov, would also have to end its support for the

Early yesterday evening, however, it did not look as though Nato would be able to accept the Serb proposals. The British Government rejected Mr Milosevic's reported offer and said the bombing would continue. "He knows what he

Indeed, Mr Milosevic – well aware that Nato fatally miscalculated Serb resistance – may simply be trying to gain the moral high ground, aware that his forces could pursue their ferocious campaign in Kosovo the moment Nato rejected his offer. Yet faced with its unwillingness to send ground troops into battle and the humanitarian catastrophe its bombardment provoked – and which Serb forces brought about – there will be Nato nations all too ready to accept any chance of a ceasefire in what now looks like an unwinnable war.

Shortly after he sat down with Mr Milosevic, Mr Primakov raised both his arms as if imitating the flight of an aircraft - and it is certain that the Russians expressed interest in examining the wreckage of the American F-117A Stealth fight-

er that crashed 25 miles from Belgrade on Saturday night.

But even as Mr Milosevic spoke to his Russian guests, new facts were being created on the ground in Kosovo. With more than 25 per cent of the Kosovo Albanians displaced and legions of refugees still pouring into Macedonia, Albania and Montenegro, the Serbs may soon be in a position to claim that northern Kosovo has been abandoned by its Albanian population. There are growing suspicions in Belgrade that once this has been accomplished, Nato may tacitly accept a division of the

provinces with the capital Priština, the Drenica region and the Trepcan lead, zinc and gold mines – the most valuable piece of real estate in the Balkans – remaining exclusively in Serb hands.

The Serbs remain convinced that Nato has turned into a tool of the KLA – against whose forces the Yugoslav army scored a significant success on Sunday with the capture of scores of new anti-air weapons. However fanciful the notion, it has been fuelled by Serb claims that Nato raids on Serb security forces in Kosovo have been followed by KLA attacks on the newly

bombed facilities. Serbia's conviction that it is the victim of a NATO-KLA plot will only have been reinforced yesterday when the British Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, vouchsafed the view that "these people [the Kosovo Albanians] say Nato is right to act and who has got the right to say they are wrong?". Hence Mr Milosevic's insistence that any ceasefire must be accompanied by an end to Nato's support for the KLA.

Figures suggest that up to 38,000 Yugoslav forces - 20,000 soldiers and 16,000 special po-

lice - are now in Kosovo, clear proof that Nato air strikes have totally failed to dissuade the Serbs from their offensive. And hope that Mr Milosevic would accede to American and European plans for an international peacekeeping force in Kosovo after two or three days of bombing have been abandoned. Among those most critical of Nato's miscalculations is Carin Bildt, the highly respected former European envoy to Bosnia who has condemned Nato for bombing without the motivation and will to commit ground troops to the battle for Kosovo.



came and said: "You have to leave." The same thing occurred in another part of town, I saw it through my windows. People were running down the hill. They came with no possessions; they were not even allowed to take their IDs. They had almost nothing, except a sadness in their eyes. Even the pride that is well known among Albanians seemed destroyed.

Four families came to our building. At first they were scared: they did not know if they would find Serbs or Albanians. Then they met one Albanian, and another, and they

week since I have been able to see the town, and my friends; since I have stayed in the dark. The only view I have of the world is the computer in front of me, which I can use until 6pm while I have electricity. I look through the curtains, but do not pull them back.

I wonder where my friends are and all the people I knew in this town. I am forbidden to do the job which I have done for years. I know my life is in jeop-

ardly because of it. My friend was killed yesterday, for one reason: he was a journalist. Baton [Haxhi] was the editor of *Koha Ditore* [the leading Kosovo newspaper], an excellent guy. His "thing" was exclusive stories and he always knew what was up.

What hurts me the most is that I had news that he was in a safe place. I sent a message to his family that he was OK, that they shouldn't worry. Now

I have such a feeling of guilt. Thank God his parents' phone is not working, because I wouldn't know what to say. I really hope that it was a quick death, one bullet. I hope he wasn't beaten.

No one expected it would be this bad. Not even Baton—even though we had war, even though we expected retaliations. We always thought that this would happen in the villages. No one dreamed Pristina would look like this.

I have decided I won't stop. I feel the need to continue, even behind the shadow.

The television screens are

full of images of refugees that have left. Well, they have survived and they might come back one day. But what about us—the people that remain inside the town that has really become a camp?

Some 300 vehicles full of people left this morning from Pristina. They have decided to escape, heading south for Macedonia. Who knows if they will be able to pass the border safely? But they are desperate to leave, and to be as far away as they can from this mess.

I don't feel that way yet. I don't think about dying. I will

think about it tomorrow. For most who remain and intend to stay, they think differently. They feel that this is the price to pay for Kosovo. The only question now is who is going to make it through to the end. So some pride remains. They don't wish to help "them" in their wish of emptying Kosovo of the Albanians.

This dispatch is from the "Balkan Crisis Reports" of the Institute for War & Peace Reporting, which can be found at <www.iwpr.net>. The author's name is withheld to protect against reprisals

Noon today

Location	Temperature (°C)	Weather Icon Description
London	14	Sun with light clouds
Birmingham	12	Sun with light clouds
Manchester	10	Sun with light clouds
Glasgow	9	Sun with light clouds
Newcastle	12	Sun with light clouds
Cardiff	11	Sun with light clouds
Edinburgh	12	Sun with light clouds
Liverpool	15	Sun with light clouds
Belfast	16	Sun with light clouds
Sheffield	16	Sun with light clouds
Nottingham	14	Sun with light clouds
Leeds	17	Sun with light clouds
York	15	Sun with light clouds
Hull	15	Sun with light clouds
Exeter	22	Sun with light clouds
Plymouth	21	Sun with light clouds
Southampton	20	Sun with light clouds
Bournemouth	20	Sun with light clouds
Wexham	20	Sun with light clouds
Oxford	20	Sun with light clouds
Reading	20	Sun with light clouds
Gloucester	20	Sun with light clouds
Swansea	20	Sun with light clouds
Aberdeen	12	Sun with light clouds
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Rushworth	12	Sun with light clouds
Doncaster	12	Sun with light clouds
Wakefield	12	Sun with light clouds
Bradford	12	Sun with light clouds
Leigh	12	Sun with light clouds
Tipton	12	Sun with light clouds
Sutton Coldfield	12	Sun with light clouds
Alcester	12	Sun with light clouds
Warwick	12	Sun with light clouds
Kenilworth	12	Sun with light clouds
Stratford-upon-Avon	12	Sun with light clouds
Leamington Spa	12	Sun with light clouds
Coventry	12	Sun with light clouds
Bedford	12	Sun with light clouds
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Watlington	12	Sun with light clouds
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Marlborough	12	Sun with light clouds
Salisbury</		

LIGHTING UP

Belfast	7.57pm	to 6.57am
Birmingham	7.58pm	to 6.43am
Bristol	7.41pm	to 6.47am
Glasgow	7.52pm	to 6.45am
London	7.51pm	to 6.37am
Manchester	7.42pm	to 6.44am
Newcastle	7.40pm	to 6.39am

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
Ayrmouth	7.59	13.0	8.21	13.1
Cork	6.18	4.4	6.33	4.3
Donmouth	6.38	5.3	6.59	5.3
London	11.52	6.4	12.06	6.5
Low Langhorne	12.43	3.8	12.50	3.8
Malinbeg	6.29	5.1	6.30	5.1
Palnatoch	1.01	3.1	1.16	3.3
Perth	12.43	3.8	12.57	3.8
Highland	11.07	5.5	11.27	5.4
Newark	11.52	6.3	12.06	6.4
West (Albert Dam)	7.07	6.3	7.13	6.6
Wings Lynn	7.05	6.4	7.09	6.6
Lahs	3.19	5.3	3.39	5.4
Liverpool	12.03	9.3	12.22	9.2
Stifford Haven	6.58	6.8	7.17	6.8
Newquay	5.50	6.8	6.06	6.9
Purcell	7.22	1.9	7.25	1.8
Porosmouth	11.57	4.4	12.15	4.5
Pwllheli	8.52	4.8	8.10	4.8
Scarborough	4.52	3.4	5.01	3.6
Wick	12.03	6.4	12.21	6.3

Height measured in metres


AIR QUALITY
Today's readings

	NO ₂	SO ₂
London	Moderate	Good
5 England	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good
C. England	Good	Good
N. England	Good	Good
NI Ireland	Good	Good
W. Ireland	Good	Good

SUN & MOON

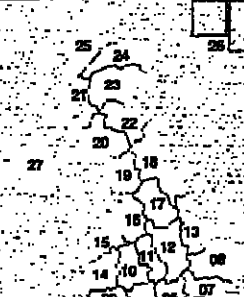
Sun rises: 06.30
Sun sets: 19.41
Moon rises: 19.02
Moon sets: 06.52

Full Moon: 19.02



WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts dial 0800 5000
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Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at
50p per min (inc VAT)



EXTREMES				
Warmest North Berwick 15C (59F)				
Coldest (day): Sella Ness BC (46F)				
Coldest (night): Loch Ness BC (14.0 min)				
Wettest: Eglon 9.8 in				
Sunniest: Eglon 9.8 in				
For 24hrs to 2pm Tuesday				
	Spun	Rate	Max	
	in	mm	°C	°F
Aberdeen	6.1	0.5	12	55
Angusley	5.7	4.8	12	54
Avalmore	4.5	4.3	12	54
Balfour	6.1	6.5	13	55
Birmingham	6.0	6.3	13	55
Bournemouth	0	2.5	12	54
Bristol	1.0	2.3	13	55
Buzdon	7.2	4.1	12	54
Cardiff	1.9	4.3	14	57
Crofton	6.4	0	10	50
Dunfermline	4.2	0	10	50
Edinburgh	5.5	13.0	14	57
Exmouth	1.0	4.8	14	57
Farnham	4.9	4.8	14	57
Falkenstein	1.9	0.3	11	52
Glasgow	7.2	22.1	14	57
Greenwich	4.9	2.8	13	55
Hove	0	0	12	54
Isle of Wight	6.6	7.6	11	52
Isle of Man	1.2	1.2	12	54
Jersey	3.2	0.3	16	61
Kenil	4.1	11.2	13	55
Leeds	2.9	0.7	13	55
Lerwick	6.0	5.1	11	52
Letchampton	0.3	0.3	12	54
Luton	0.7	0.7	13	55
Manchester	6.2	0	12	54
Margate	3.8	2.3	13	55
Moscow	0.7	0.7	15	59
Morescombe	3.5	0.6	14	57
Neath	2.2	3.2	13	55
Newquay	3.1	5.1	13	55
Norwich	2.7	0	13	55
Northampton	2.7	0	13	55
Ross-on-Wye	1.4	1.3	14	57
Salcombe	0	0	11	52
Scarborough	0.7	1.5	15	59
Shrewsbury	2.5	3.3	15	59
Southport	0	0	-	-
Stornoway	4.0	5.3	10	50
Svenage	0.4	0.5	11	52
Torquay	4.4	8.6	12	54
Torquay	1.0	0	12	54
Weymouth	1.0	2.3	13	55
Wymond	0.6	1.3	11	52

For more data to 6pm (GMT) Monday:
 Contact us on 044 764 7647 Weather Centre

COME RAIN OR SHINE...

CHINAS WORST DROUGHT: since the Eighties has left 19 million people short of drinking water and is affecting 8.7 million hectares (21.48 million acres) of farmland, Chinese officials said yesterday.

China has had "scant rainfall" since last September, said the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters and with rainfall at or near record lows, this summer's crops are now said to be seriously threatened.

[illegible]

Trap

father through

WAR IN THE BALKANS

Relief operation trundles into action

HUMANITARIAN AID

By FRANCES KENNEDY in Puglia



Refugees from Kosovo waiting for bread to be distributed from an aid truck in the Albanian town of Kukes yesterday. Hektor Pustina/AP

THE EUROPEAN humanitarian relief operation got under way at dawn yesterday as 30 truck-trailers rolled off the Italian warship *Son Marco* at the Albanian port of Durres. They were followed by 40 buses, 5,000 tents, 50,000 sleeping bags, 50 toilets as well as camp kitchens, food and medical supplies.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said it had held an emergency meeting yesterday with aid providers and had urged them to make direct donations to the countries taking in the refugees - Albania, Macedonia and the Yugoslav republic of Montenegro - concentrating on shelter, transport and medical assistance. An \$8.5m (£5.3m) pledge had been received from the United States over the weekend.

Britain has provided a transport plane to airlift tents and blankets to Albania, UNHCR said yesterday. The plane will shuttle between various desti-

nations and Albania with more supplies to be distributed by the UNHCR emergency team.

Clare Short, the Secretary of State for International Development, said yesterday that the situation in Kosovo had deteriorated rapidly over the last 24 hours and it was clear substantial further assistance was needed. UNHCR had sufficient supplies of tents and blankets, she said, but they needed to be moved very quickly to where people are.

The World Food Programme also said it had enough food but needed logistical support to get it to the people. The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, announced on Monday that Britain was making £10m available as an initial response to the crisis.

In the space of two days, 170 Italian military personnel, working with Italian and foreign aid workers, should be able to provide shelter for some 20,000 refugees. Thirty-eight buses, donated by Italian city transport authorities, will ensure the transport of exhausted families crossing the border into Albania to camps that are being established by the UNHCR in other parts of the country.

Initial reports that the naval vessel *Son Marco*, which could comfortably carry 2,000 people, would return with a load of refugees, have been dismissed by the Defence Ministry. The vessel is expected to head back

to Bari to load more relief supplies. Its sister ship, the *Son Giorgio*, may also be deployed to transport further goods.

Italy's Interior Minister, Rosa Russo Jervolino, yesterday led an Italian delegation visiting the Albanian town of Kukes to see first-hand what is needed. Ms Jervolino reiterated that the request from the Albanian authorities was for assistance to be sent there, rather than the dispatch of refugees to Italy and other European countries. But she added that if it became necessary for refugees to be evacuated they would not be left at the mercy of the criminal gangs who charge \$1,000 to ferry migrants across the Strait of Otranto.

There are contingency plans should the flow of refugees prove so large that it cannot be dealt with in Albania or Macedonia. At a disused runway near Bari airport, still closed to civilian traffic, 500 caravans have been allocated for use and a further 500 are available at a former Nato facility near Foggia, 60 miles to the north.

Although the Italians have kick-started the operation, they are hoping it will be a combined European effort. In addition, the Amsterdam Treaty, which comes in to effect in May, binds EU members to sharing the social and financial costs of any refugee emergency.

Cook: We won't fight our way in

WESTMINSTER

By COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

KOSOVAR ALBANIANS yesterday begged the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, not to allow their people to face the marauding Serbs empty handed.

The Foreign Secretary later ruled out the possibility of Nato arming the Kosovo Liberation Army, but he did appear yesterday on the same platform as the KLA's external representative, Bakiht Mahmutias.

In an emotional appeal for more help from Nato a former journalist in Kosovo, Hamide Latifi, said after meeting Mr Cook: "I want to send a message to British mothers and sisters. I hear voices - why should my son go and fight there?"

"We don't ask British mothers to send their sons, we are ready to fight," she said. "We are old people, we are young people - we have people but we have empty hands. With hands in pockets you cannot fight military which is so sophisticated."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal

Democrat leader, wrote to the Prime Minister last night calling on Britain and the Nato allies to start preparing plans to use ground forces.

"I believe that Nato leaders seriously underestimate the public will in this matter. Even if you are not prepared at present to commit yourself to the use of ground troops, I beg you not to exclude the possibility."

Mr Ashdown told Tony Blair. Mr Cook insisted there had been no change of policy in favour of sending in troops, but he appeared to leave the possibility open. "We will commit ground forces to guarantee a ceasefire but not to fight their way in," Mr Cook said.

But he added that in the Gulf war, there was a seven week air campaign before ground troops were sent in. "It is not our intention to put in ground troops. Even if it was, we would be doing exactly what we are doing from the air now."



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you knows you'll
want to replace her
when she dies

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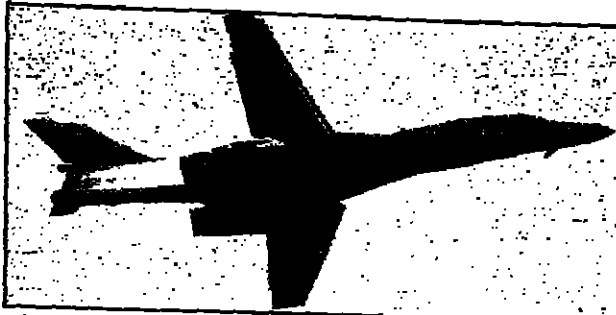
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JP 11/10/99

WAR IN THE BALKANS



The US B1B long-range heavy bomber

Bomber delivers new type of 'smart' weapon

NATO WEAPONRY
BY JOHN DAVISON

NATO DEPLOYED a new weapon yesterday in its fight against Yugoslav forces in Kosovo - a devastating bombing system that can operate accurately in bad weather and which gives no warning to the forces that it is attacking.

Designed specifically for use against tanks and mobile artillery, the bomb is guided to its target by a Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) navigation system. Unlike the other "smart" weapons used so far in Operation Allied Force, in the Gulf War or in Operation Desert Fox against Iraq, it does not need clear weather to work.

The system is carried on the US B1B long-range heavy bomber, four of which were yesterday on their way to the Balkans region from bases in different parts of the United States. The system has never before been used in combat, but proved accurate to within 10m (33 feet) of a target in trials two years ago.

Bad weather has dogged the



An image from Serb TV showing the ruins of a factory in the Serbian town of Cacak, which the Serbs say was hit by four Nato missiles AP

the campaign and left Serbian tanks and artillery in Kosovo free to roam and kill at will.

The experience of the RAF Harriers based in Italy has been particularly frustrating. Of the six nights of the campaign so far they have flown on only two sorties when their laser-guided bombs have been dropped successfully.

General Sir Charles Guthrie,

Chief of the Defence Staff, said: "We are determined, and the pilots are absolutely determined, to avoid civilian casualties if humanly possible."

Laser, infra-red or optical (TV) guidance systems need a clear sight of the target for about 90 seconds to work properly. If it is even temporarily obscured by cloud or smoke, the system could fail to "lock on".

The Paveway II laser-guided bombs, which are being used by the Harriers, in effect travel down a beam to the target from heights of 4,000 to 5,000 metres. If the beam is broken at any time, there is a risk of dropping the bomb in the wrong place. "Because of the fear of collateral damage, the pilot has got to be absolutely sure he can lock on and maintain lock," said Wing Cdr Ken Petrie, a defence analyst.

TERRAIN OFFERS CLUE AS TO WHY JET CAME DOWN

So did it "malfunction" or was it shot down? The question of what caused a F-117A Nighthawk "stealth" fighter to fall from the sky over Serbia on Saturday night has still to be conclusively answered.

Despite the fact that the pilot, who should know a few things about what happened, was rescued within hours, Pentagon officials say they are still

conducting their investigation.

Certainly it is important to get the answer right. If it was because of a broken part, pilot error or a lucky shot from anti-aircraft gunners, then there is not too much of a problem. But if it meant that the stealth technology didn't work, then a lot of people are going to go back to a lot of drawing boards.

"It felt like a knife through the stomach," was the reaction of one engineer from the aircraft's design programme when he heard the news. The US has spent a total of \$50bn on developing this aircraft, the B-2 bomber and a new generation of fighters.

Other experts said that it was a surprise that the secret had lasted so long, given that the F-117A

technology was developed in the Seventies.

During the Gulf war the aircraft flew more than 1,200 sorties without a single plane being damaged by Iraqi fire, a feat that even amazed air force chiefs. But that was over a flat desert terrain, similar to that of the Nevada desert where it was designed.

Some experts feel it could be the terrain of

Yugoslavia that has made the difference. Flying over this mountainous landscape, where targets are easily concealed, it is likely the planes would have to carry out manoeuvres which could seriously affect its "stealth" characteristics.

Even a standard banking turn increases the aircraft's radar profile by 100 times, sources say.

JOHN DAVISON

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JOHN DAVISON

Obstacles to ground force are political and physical

LAND OFFENSIVE
BY RAYMOND WHITAKER AND JOHN DAVISON

AS THE world is confronted with its inability to prevent the "ethnic cleansing" and murder of thousands of Kosovo Albanians, demands for Nato to send in ground troops are getting louder. But, leaving aside the constant assurances in recent weeks that Nato would never fight its way into Kosovo, any reversal of strategy is likely to encounter huge physical and political obstacles.

Critics of the present strategy of attacking Serbia only from the air argue that soon there will not be a single Albanian left alive in the province, and that the 12,000-strong Nato troops in Macedonia, sent as the advance party of a peace-keeping force, should move into Kosovo immediately. But military strategists say if they had to fight their way in, it would take a heavily armoured force many times bigger.

"There are believed to be about 40,000 Serbian troops in Kosovo, to say nothing of possible reinforcements not far away," said Phillip Mitchell, ground forces specialist at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). "The rule of thumb is that an invading force should outnumber the defenders by three to one. Even if Nato took the decision to assemble such a force today, I estimate it couldn't be done in less than four to six weeks."

It might theoretically be possible to fly 100,000 troops into the region, but it would be suicidal for them to go into Kosovo without the kind of heavy weaponry that in practical terms can be transported only by sea.

Britain currently has a reinforced armoured battle group and headquarters of 4,800 troops from 4th Armoured Brigade in Macedonia. If the peace talks in France had succeeded, a second battle group would have been added, bringing the British contribution up



Yugoslav army troops resting by their tank in the Drenica area of Kosovo AP

to 8,000. Fully deployed, they would have had 30 Challenger tanks, 40 Warrior fighting vehicles and 12 AS-90 155mm heavy, self-propelled guns. This was planned to be the largest contingent in the 28,000-strong Nato peace-keeping force under British command.

Even to assemble a force of that size would take another two weeks, however. The remaining battle group is on 72-hour stand-by in Germany, but it would take at least 10 days to transport its heavy equipment by sea to the region through Greece.

Contrast this with Britain's contribution to the allied force that fought in the Gulf eight years ago. At its peak, it had a reinforced division in the field, consisting of 40,000 troops, some 200 battle tanks, over 90 artillery pieces and at least 18 attack helicopters. "Just to get their basic equipment there took three or four weeks," said Mr Mitchell. Even then, Britain had to beg and borrow men and equipment from almost every corner of the military, with the

cuts the armed forces have undergone since then, it would be impossible to muster a force of that size today.

Assembling an armoured division strong enough to fight the Serbs would inevitably require the US to take the lead - unlikely given the degree of opposition in Congress. Macedonia and Greece were uncomfortable enough hosting the peace-keeping force of 28,000, and would probably face insurmountable political difficulties if they were asked to allow a much bigger invasion army to gather on their soil.

Then there are the logistical difficulties. "Fort facilities were much better in Saudi Arabia," said Mr Mitchell, "and it took months to get all the pieces for Desert Storm in place. You would need almost as big a force here, and Salonica, through which all the heavy equipment now in Macedonia was shipped, could not cope."

Albania would have far fewer political qualms about being the jumping-off point for an invasion force, but its best port, Dur-

res, is even less adequate for the task, according to another IISS expert. "Nor is that the end of the matter," said Mr Mitchell. "You need all-weather roads capable of carrying heavy armoured and Albanian doesn't have them."

Even if all these difficulties could be overcome, there are few routes through the mountains that ring Kosovo. The main roads into the province from both Macedonia and Albania run through narrow gorges and are punctuated by tunnels and bridges. Preventing the Serbian forces from blocking them would be a major military operation in itself.

Mr Mitchell gave short shrift to the idea of an airborne assault on Kosovo. "It might be possible to drop large numbers of men with some light armour and artillery into the province," he said, "but unless they were joined within two to three days by a mechanised, armoured force, they would be defenceless." Not quite as defenceless, however, as the Albanians still in Kosovo.

After dinner we cleaned up.

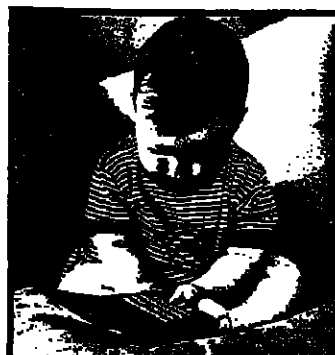
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Arts	Mr Bean (BBC)
Presenter	Mr Bean (BBC)
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Newcomer - Behind The Screen	Mr Bean (BBC)
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Tony Blair walking to a helicopter at Stormont yesterday after talks to advance the peace process

'Glimmers of hope' after Ulster talks

HOPES FOR real progress in the crucial Northern Ireland political talks remained alive last night after a day of intensive talks involving Tony Blair, the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, and local parties.

Some of those involved spoke of glimmers of hope and a sense that movement was possible from both the republicans and the Unionists who have for so many months been locked in the impasse over arms decommissioning.

They did not, however, pre-

dict any early or easy breakthrough that might satisfy both constituencies, and there was mystery about an early-afternoon report that said a settlement was on the cards.

The sense of optimism fluctuated throughout the day, with some high morning hopes dimming as the afternoon wore on. At the same time, there was a growing sense that all sides were engaged in a serious search for a settlement of the long-running issue.

Publicly, though, republicans and Unionists gave no overt inkings of major changes in their positions, the former saying the IRA was not about to give up weapons, while the latter maintained that no new executive would be formed if they did not.

One of the most upbeat assessments came from the Irish Foreign Minister, David Andrews, who said: "Altogether the atmosphere is one of friendliness and a wish for a solution to this terribly difficult problem. We have succeeded in getting this far by finding solutions with which all sides can live. I think we have to do the same thing with the present impasse, and we don't have very much time to do it."

Mr Blair and Mr Ahern were heckled by loyalists as they made their way to the large helicopter parked, symbolically, on the lawn right in front of Stormont.

A couple of republicans engaged in their own version of agitprop, meanwhile, by climbing the large statue of the Unionist hero Sir Edward Carson, which dominates the Stormont grounds, and hoisting a tricolour. A furious Ian Paisley demanded that police take them away, and they eventually climbed down.

In the afternoon, the action moved from Stormont to the baronial splendour of Hillsborough Castle in Co Down, where

the two prime ministers held talks centring on the Ulster Unionist party leader, David Trimble, the Sinn Féin president, Gerry Adams, and the SDLP leader, John Hume.

A senior official at the Northern Ireland Office said: "They are not wasting their time. Therefore there must be some movement, but it remains difficult. There are glimmers of hope. Equally there is a lot of hard work to be done, but there are no guarantees. There is still a big gap to be closed."

In addition to the straight political meetings, Mr Blair held several meetings with representatives of Portadown's Garvaghy Road residents and leaders of the Orange Order who have been involved in the Drumcree marching stand-off.

Mr Trimble said: "We are conscious of the historic opportunities that exist here. The question is whether the paramilitary parties have the will to grasp this historic opportunity to implement this agreement in its entirety."

"The choice lies with those who have yet to carry out their side of the bargain. We have done all we can do."

In a symbolic visit to a religiously integrated school in north Belfast, Mr Blair declared: "I will not stop or rest until this thing is done. Without trust between the parties, this Agreement isn't going to work, but I believe we can get there."

Sinn Féin's chairman, Mitchel McLaughlin, said he was encouraged everybody was working collectively to resolve the impasse. "I have noticed spokespersons talking in terms of the 'D' [decommissioning] word as an issue which will be resolved by voluntary action - a much more pragmatic and sensible approach - and I would hope that all of the parties can get behind that kind of common sense and systemic addressing of the problems."

Anne McElvoy, Review, page 3

HURDLES TO OVERCOME

ONE REASON Tony Blair and almost everyone is anxious to resolve the issues of arms decommissioning and forming a new executive in the course of this week is that Northern Ireland faces a daunting timetable over the next few months.

The Orange marching season starts at Easter and builds to a climax in early July. For the last four years it has produced serious confrontations at Drumcree near Portadown, Co Armagh. Although last year's protest at the decision of the authorities to ban the march petered out after three young boys were killed in a loyalist petrol-bomb attack, the Portadown Orange lodge appears determined to get through this year.

Sporadic protests have continued and Catholic-Protestant relations in the area have reached levels of bitterness unusual even by Northern Ireland standards. Efforts to defuse the tension received a severe setback with this month's assassination of Rosemary Nelson (above), the local Catholic solicitor killed by a loyalist car bomb.

The Orange Order cannot be confident of the same widespread support as last year if it mounts protests again this year, but the depth of local feeling is such that Drumcree is almost certain to become a flashpoint yet again.

A major political test is also looming in the European elections in June. The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, traditionally tops the poll in these, with John Hume, of the SDLP, second and a representative of the Ulster Unionists taking the third seat.

The Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble (above) has a two-fold problem. Mr Paisley (below) is intent on turning the contest into a second referendum on the Good Friday Agreement while the Ulster Unionist candidate, Jim Nicholson, could be weakened by his recent admission of an extra-marital affair. If the tide of Unionist opinion flows against the Agreement, and if the conservative electorate punishes Mr Nicholson, Mr Paisley could surge ahead.

Later in the summer, the former Hong Kong governor Chris Patten is due to deliver a far-reaching report on the future of policing in Northern Ireland.

Whatever the report contains it will become the focus of a fierce debate, with Unionists attempting to protect the Royal Ulster Constabulary while nationalists seek fundamental changes. The policing issue, always a sensitive one, has been made thornier still by the death of Mrs Nelson and the revelation that RUC officers appeared to be dismissive and obstructive during an earlier investigation of her complaints that she had been threatened by police. In sum this timetable suggests that whether or not a breakthrough is made this week the summer will once again be a potentially combustible season in Northern Ireland.

DAVID MCKITTRICK

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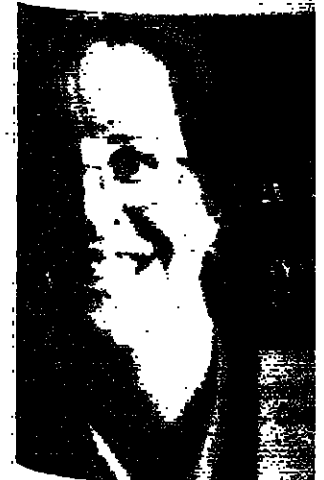
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Bulger trial not fair, says expert

ONE OF the child psychiatrists who gave evidence in the James Bulger case has spoken out in support of this month's European ruling that the killers were not given a fair trial.

Dr Eileen Vizard, a consultant child psychiatrist who evaluated Robert Thompson, one of the children convicted, said the atmosphere at their trial was so intimidating that it prevented the children from being able to understand what was happening or to participate in the trial effectively.

She said a charge of manslaughter would have probably been more suitable.

Speaking about the Bulger case, at a conference on violence last week, she said: "It is obvious that very young children couldn't feel in any way at ease. It was extremely intimidating and one really would have to question the true capacity of children in that context to plead their case, to instruct their solicitors and to really understand what the implications of the trial were."

Earlier this month, the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg, said that the procedures used to convict Jon Venables and Robert Thompson were a violation of their rights. Venables and Thompson, aged 10 when they killed two-year-old James Bulger in 1993, were tried in an adult court and then detained at Her Majesty's pleasure.

The commission said that the trial of the two boys at Preston Crown Court placed them in a "highly charged atmosphere". It rejected claims that the court case amounted to "inhuman and degrading treatment", but agreed that they had been prevented from participating effectively, a violation of Article Six of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Dr Vizard said her assessment report on Thompson was not used in the trial because it was deemed to be "unhelpful".

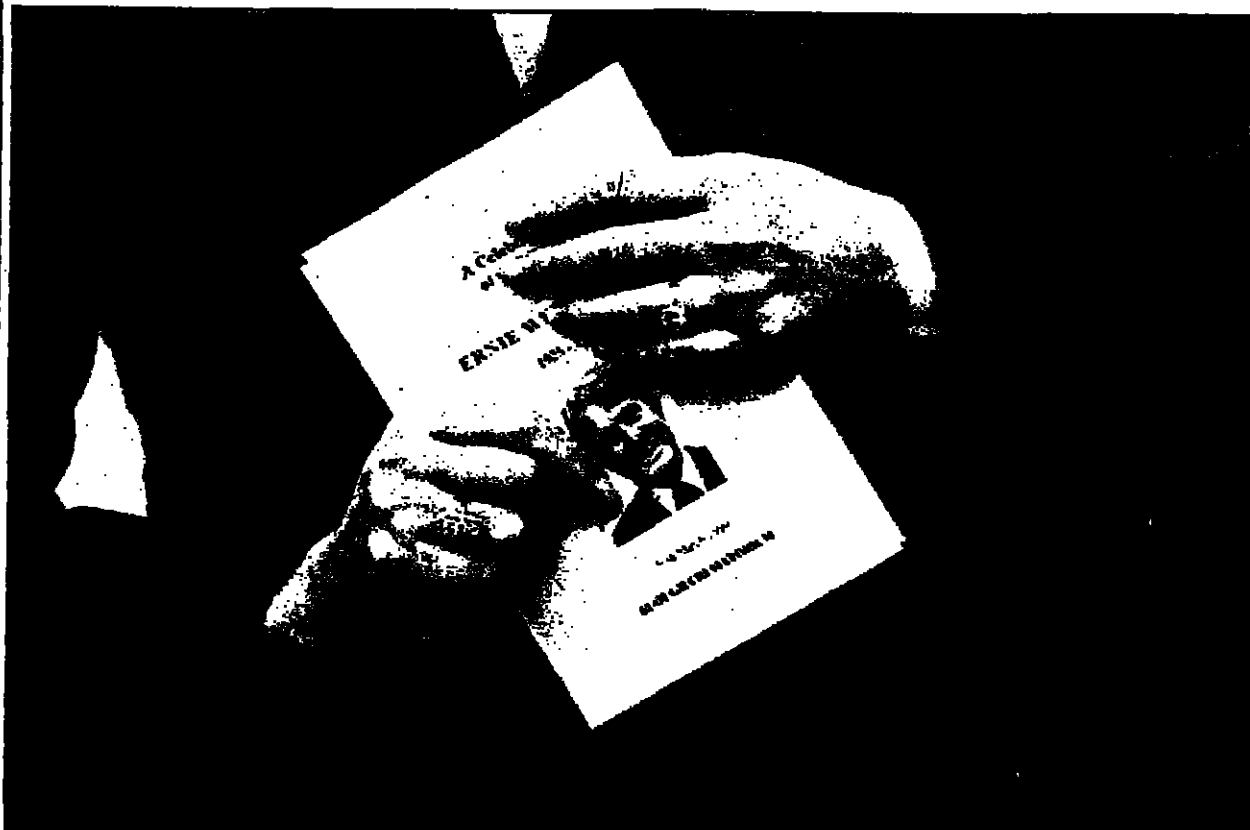
"In practical terms the questions which I was asked in relation to the Bulger case were extremely constrained and didn't allow for any development of the psychiatric evidence. They were very tightly focused questions around the defendants' capacity to understand that the events were seriously wrong," she said.

The commission ruling, which has been referred to the European Court of Human Rights, could force Britain to change the way young children are tried for serious crimes. Normally children below the age of 18 are tried in a youth court. If the trials are for murder, manslaughter or other offences carrying sentences of more than 14 years, the child is tried in Crown Court if older than 10.

Rex Makin, the solicitor who acted for James's father, said that the re-evaluation of the case was "dreadful" for the Bulger family. "It is difficult for them to understand all the nuances of the case and why it is all coming out again," he said.

By CHERRY NORTON
Social Affairs Correspondent

Stars recall Little Ern's big contribution



Mourners at the funeral of Ernie Wise yesterday reflected on his comic genius

John Lawrence

ERNE WISE, the underrated straight man in Britain's most famous comedy double act, finally gained centre stage yesterday.

Celebrities turned out at a crematorium in Slough, Berkshire, to pay tribute to "Little Ern", who was famous for being the "short, fat, hairy legs" - and not a lot else - of Morecambe and Wise. The comedian died earlier this month aged 73, after a heart operation.

But yesterday, the son of a railway porter who started in showbusiness at 13 as a clog dancer was lauded for his own comic genius. There had been too much concentration on Eric Morecambe's contribution, said the former Channel 4 chief executive Michael Grade, delivering the funeral oration.

"Let us be clear: They were equal partners in the comic genius department," he said.

Together, he said, they created a "comic chemistry that can only be explained as a divine process". Each was vital to the other: "Morecambe without Wise? It's unthinkable. Like trying to create a table without legs, short, fat, hairy or not."

Angela Rippon, the former

newsreader who became a star after dancing on a Morecambe and Wise Christmas show, said: "Ernie was such a very generous, kind man. You have to be generous to be a straight man to a comedian like Eric Morecambe, who always gets the laughs."

Also among the mourners were Rolf Harris, Wendy Craig and the comedian Tom O'Connor. The television presenter Michael Barratt said: "My one regret is that I did not appear on the show. It was the ultimate accolade in Britain at the time."

The tone of the funeral was of a passing era. Even the autograph hunters were in their 70s. Teddy Johnson, runner-up with Pearl Carr in the 1959 Eurovision Song Contest, sang Ernie Wise's favourite song - Henry Mancini's "Shadow of Your Smile".

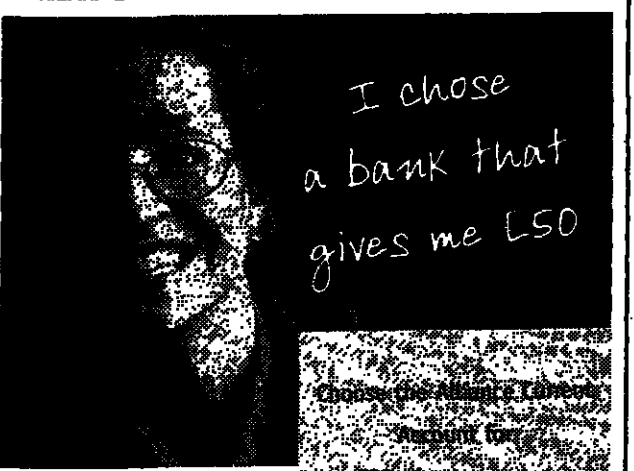
Joan Morecambe, Eric's widow, stood alongside Doreen, Ernie's widow, reading messages on the floral tributes. "Eric and Ernie formed one of the most perfect friendships," said Mrs Morecambe. "I don't think there will be a double act like them again."

Mugged tourist dies after fall from bus

A TOURIST who was mugged two hours after arriving in Britain died yesterday from injuries she suffered during the attack.

The 49-year-old Swedish woman was dragged by her handbag from a double-decker bus in central London on Saturday afternoon. The woman, who was on holiday with her 13-year-old son and former husband, banged her head as she fell to the pavement. The family were about to alight from the bus in Kensington Gore, near the Albert Hall, when the attacker grabbed the woman's handbag, which she was carrying strapped across her body. As he jumped from the moving bus, the woman fell to the road, striking her head. The attacker escaped in a black cab. Police have started a murder inquiry.

By JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent



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Quavering swansong of an ancient and doomed species

TORY MPs had fun yesterday with Jack Cunningham's statement on Modernising Government, yucking with increasingly noisy contempt as the Minister for the Cabinet Office doggedly worked his way through his speech - one of those bullet-pointed mission statements that should ideally be presented with the help of a flipchart and an *Innovations* catalogue laser pointer.

They hooted at his promise to create government that was "joined-up and responsive", giggled at the phrases "one-stop-shop" and "common-life-episodes" (the latter presumably being consultant-

speak for Births, Marriages and Deaths) and spluttered at the idea of civil servants attending "Learning Labs". But the biggest ironic cheer was reserved for Mr Cunningham's pledge to develop government for the information age.

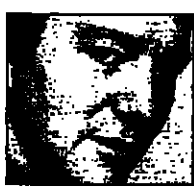
This did contain one substantive promise: by 2008, 100 per cent of dealings with government will be capable of electronic delivery.

By chance, this answered a question asked on Monday in the House of Lords: Lord Lucas, a young hereditary, making a last bid for modernity with a question about e-mail. The more significant debate about modernisation that followed

lasted well into the early hours. Yesterday it was taken up again, 180 peers queuing to make their swan song - or, alternatively, to put the case for culling the swans.

One feels that some embattled hereditaries may not have caught up with e-mail yet, still struggling as they are to digest the enormities of universal suffrage. Lord Inglewood, speaking against the Government, was prepared to define his Conservatism yesterday as a preference for "evolutionary rather than revolutionary change". This may put him at odds with more traditional-minded colleagues, who probably take the view that evolu-

THE SKETCH



THOMAS
SUTCLIFFE

tion itself was recklessly precipitous in its methods. You can imagine them solemnly convened up a tree,

contemplating the possibility of bipedalism. "We have been urged to surrender our prehensile tails," says one ancient silver-back, "but what is to replace them? We have not been told!" His fellows then break off from mutual grooming to mutter that swinging from branch to branch had served the community well for hundreds of years, so why change now?

If we are to believe the generalities of speeches in the House, the hereditaries are paragons of selfless duty. The attribution of merit is undoubtedly deserved in some cases (though I would have thought that the allocation of 82 spaces will com-

fortably accommodate the *crème de la crème* with a few seats left over for the semi-skimmed). But not many speakers mention that the sense of service was accompanied by a comfortable living and a hefty wedge of unaccountable power. And when they do, it is only because they wish to claim it as just one more asset. Because the hereditaries "have no ladder to climb", they can't be compromised; because they owe their position to no party, they can speak free of inhibition.

This isn't by any means the most perverse defence of their privilege. Lord Malmesbury, a man so venerable that you wouldn't dare to

nudge him in case he disintegrated, quavered: "It would be difficult for a nominated House to produce the youth we get here."

Such speeches were best answered by Lord Shore of Stepney, who pointed out that the cause notionally espoused by the hereditaries - that of protecting an effective second chamber - would be best served by their departure, since the Commons would no longer be able to dismiss its contradictions as the bray of embedded privilege. If duty and sacrifice is their prime mover, they should be consoled. They have one last service to perform by falling on their swords with dignity.

Peers angry as Irvine warns against delay

PROSPECTS OF any consensus over House of Lords reform diminished last night as peers grew more hostile to the Government's plans to scrap the voting rights of hereditaries.

Their anger was fuelled after the Lord Chancellor gave the bluntest warning so far that any attempts to alter or delay the House of Lords Bill would breach the deal to retain 91 hereditaries in the interim period of reform.

Opening the last day on the Bill's second reading, Lord Irvine of Lairg said the so-called "Weatherill" compromise would allow the rest "to depart with dignity".

But he stressed ministers would not agree on a greater number of hereditaries staying, and would not hesitate to invoke the Parliament Act, allowing the Commons to override the peers, to carry out its plans.

"Changes will not be accepted either here, or in the Commons," said the Lord Chancellor. "Nor will the Government tolerate any material disruption of its legislative programme, through exchanges of

LOARDS' REFORM

By SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

messages between both Houses signifying continuing disagreement, or by any other means, when it has a manifesto commitment to clear and firm, and so strong a popular endorsement for its manifesto."

But peers made their intention to delay the Bill clear, when Lord Pearson of Rannoch, a Tory life peer, dismissed the Lord Chancellor's comments as "threatening and unpleasant".

Referring to peers' constitutional convention not to wreck legislation set out in the governing party's manifesto, he said: "I do not believe that the Salisbury Convention was designed to facilitate the destruction of this House."

Similarly, Lord Kingsland, speaking for the Tories, said they reserved the right to amend and vote against the Bill: "We will courageously vote for what we believe are the correct amendments to this Bill and, if need be, oppose it altogether."

Lord Weatherill insisted his compromise was "a genuine attempt to balance the principle and right of the Government to carry out its manifesto commitment and the rights equality of the Opposition parties".

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, the former Labour prime minister, insisted: "I cannot see, trying to work through the programme, that we can introduce a reform measure until after the general election."

Viscount Cranborne, the former Tory leader in the Lords and one of the architects of the deal, warned the Lord Chancellor: "The Weatherill amendment is a least bad option. But I have to say to the Lord Chancellor that by his attempt to bushwhack the House this afternoon, he has not made our task any easier."

Peers were poised to defeat the Government in the early hours on a symbolic amendment by Lord Cobbold, a cross-bencher, that criticises the Government for removing hereditaries before revealing its plans for a future make-up of the upper House.



A member of the Disability Benefits Consortium protesting at Westminster yesterday against possible cuts in payments. Andrew Buurman

Disabled 'betrayed' by proposed benefit cuts

FRANK FIELD, the former Social Security minister, launched his most vigorous attack to date on the Government's welfare plans when he claimed yesterday that £750m of benefit cuts would betray the disabled.

Mr Field spoke out after dis-

WELFARE

By PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

abled rights campaigners held a mass lobby of Parliament in protest at the Welfare Reform and Pension Bill currently pass-

ing through the House of Commons. The Disability Benefits Consortium, an umbrella group of more than 250 disabled groups, said that the Bill would remove crucial financial support from some of the most vulnerable in society.

The proposals include the abolition of the Severe Disablement Allowance.

Mr Field was joined by Lord Ashley of Stoke (Lab), chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Disabling Group, and backbench MPs, including

Dr Lynne Jones (Lab, Birmingham Selley Oak). "The cuts break the specific promise to disabled people that any social security savings would come from helping them to find work and not from cutting entitlement," Mr Field said.

'Extreme concern' over transport links to Dome

SENIOR MEMBERS of Parliament registered fresh anxieties yesterday about transport links to the £750m Millennium Dome and expressed concern over the building's future after the celebrations.

The House of Commons Culture Committee said that it was "extremely concerned" at London Transport's apparently casual attitude to contingency planning. The Tube route to the Dome is due to be completed in three phases with the final link open by 31 October.

While a report by the committee welcomed the introduc-

CULTURE

By BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

tion of new management of the construction of the London Underground Jubilee Line extension, there was still a "large question mark" over its completion date.

"The Dome can be viewed as a journey into the future and we do not believe that a Heath Robinson journey across London represents an appropriate start to the day," the report said.

Under the chairmanship of Gerald Kaufman MP, the com-

mittee also registered its disagreement over a plan for short-term car parking at the site, saying that the attraction should be "car-free".

The report into the Dome said that its opening celebration should remind people that the millennium was a Christian anniversary, but should not exclude devotees of other faiths or those of none.

Church leaders have indicated that the opening ceremony will be boycotted if the Archbishop of Canterbury is not allowed to usher in the new millennium with a prayer.

The Rev Stephen Lynas, an Anglican minister and millennium spokesman for the UK's main churches, said that the committee's report was "vague" about the position of Christianity in the celebrations.

But the churches were satisfied with the Government's position on the issue, which presumably would take precedence over the deliberations of a select committee, he said.

The report criticised the New Millennium Experience Company for failing to say how tickets for the Dome would be made available to the public.

Cannabis 'no longer rebellious'

THE USE of cannabis is so commonplace among British schoolchildren that it is no longer regarded as an act of rebellion, the drugs tsar Keith Hellawell admitted yesterday.

Addressing the Home Affairs Select Committee, Mr Hellawell said many children did not even associate smoking cannabis with drug-taking.

"It's almost as if it has become marginalised," he said. "Everybody does it. You are not

DRUGS

By IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

actually beating the system and being a rebel or radical if you are taking the substance."

In a frank exchange with MPs, Mr Hellawell, the UK's anti-drugs co-ordinator, admitted that the Government's strategy for fighting drugs was unlikely to show any signs of success within three years.

He said no community was safe from the growing problem of heroin use and some youngsters were taking it as their first illegal drug. Although many new heroin users have been introduced to the smokable form of the drug, some young users were now choosing to inject heroin to satisfy their increasing craving, Mr Hellawell said.

The drug tsar promised MPs that more of the £1.4bn spent annually on fighting drugs would be allocated to education, which receives only 3 per cent of the budget.

Mr Hellawell said ground had been lost by the reluctance of schools to take on board anti-drug messages. He said: "Up to four or five years ago it was taboo in schools to talk about drugs. It was outlawed by parents who said, 'If they are talking about drugs in school, it's a druggery school and I will take my kids away'."

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War on hooligans

SIMON BURNS, the Tory MP for Chelmsford West, published his Football (Offences and Disorder) Bill to close legal loopholes on racist and indecent chanting and ticket-touting, and to strengthen powers to deal with football hooligans, especially at overseas international matches. Mr Burns said he had worked closely with ministers in drafting the Bill.

Today's agenda

Commons, 9.30am: Back-bench debates on secondary education in Plymouth; A500 scheme, Stoke-on-Trent; Chelmsford Prison.

THE HOUSE



Prime Minister's Questions: Employment Relations Bill; debate on prescription charges for cystic fibrosis sufferers.

Lords, 2.30pm: Debates on car theft and role of design.

Parliament rises today for the Easter break. The Lords returns on Monday, 12 April and the Commons on Tuesday, 13 April.

Iraq attack

THE COST to date of the bombs dropped on Iraq by British forces in Operation Desert Fox and subsequent actions was £4m, Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, disclosed.

Safety push

THE GOVERNMENT is planning to "inject a new impetus" into the health and safety agenda to mark the 25th anniversary of the Health and Safety at Work Act, Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, announced.

Lottery income

THE TOTAL income from the National Lottery for good

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

causes reached its highest level so far in 1998 with £1.95bn. The original amount in the National Lottery's first full year in 1996 was £1.34bn.

Freud squad

MINISTERS ARE considering measures that will make the registration of people offering psychological counselling a statutory requirement, the Health Minister John Denham indicated.

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JP 11/03/99

Pinochet could be tried in Britain

THE SPANISH judge seeking to extradite Augusto Pinochet to Spain has said he will co-operate in seeing the former Chilean dictator tried in Britain, should Jack Straw, the Foreign Secretary, decide not to grant his extradition request.

After last week's decision by the law lords to reduce greatly the number of charges against the general, Judge Baltasar Garzon has insisted, in documents sent to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), he still wants General Pinochet, 83, to be tried in Spain.

But he grants British legal authorities access to all the documents in the case "so they can proceed in England against Senator Pinochet if the extradition process is discontinued".

Judge Garzon's gesture came in response to a request made on Friday by the CPS for permission to allow British police to go through all the evidence submitted from Spain. He said that if extradition was blocked he "would have no legal objection to the case being prosecuted in England, if English laws permit".

Judge Garzon drastically reworked his case against General Pinochet after the law lords decided last Wednesday to throw out most of the charges. By a 6-1 majority, they called for the general's case to be reconsidered as they cut the number of human rights charges upon which he could be extradited.

The judge has submitted details of 40 cases of torture and death that occurred after the 29 September 1988 watershed - the date Britain recognised

BY ELIZABETH NASH in Madrid

torture as a universal crime - and before General Pinochet stood down in 1990.

To the eight cases contained in the original indictment, Judge Garzon has added 32 new ones to support the charges of torture and conspiracy to torture. Among them are those of Manuel Canales, who had electrodes placed against his temple and against a testicle during interrogation; and of Pablo Apablaza, who was illegally detained and blindfolded, and had an empty pistol fired three times against his head, and electric current applied to his genitals.

In addition, Judge Garzon has reminded British prosecutors of 1,198 forced disappearances that remain unresolved: "a permanent, live crime" that qualifies as torture under the 1992 UN Declaration on the Protection of Disappeared Persons. Lawyers close to Judge Garzon emphasise that the reduced number of charges imposed by the law lords in no way lessens the force of the case against the general.

Mr Straw has until 15 April to rule on whether extradition should proceed. Even if he decides to go no further, most Spaniards believe that General Pinochet's reputation lies in ruins and that no dictator can now escape justice. Judge Garzon, they feel, has already won.

General Pinochet himself remains under house arrest in Surrey, with his legal team claiming that he is condemned to a "custodial limbo".



John Betjeman, who wrote a paean to Speedwell Cavern, and Matlock Bath's 'limestone breakers', which are under increasing threat from quarrying



Kiran Ridley

Betjeman's 'pleasant acres' in danger

"HOW LONG before the pleasant acres... are rolled across by limestone breakers", asked John Betjeman in his poem *Matlock Bath*.

Sadly, the answer is now. Vast areas of countryside are being scarred by the quarrying industry - including the Derbyshire moorland that inspired the late Poet Laureate. A report today from the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) urges the Government to protect landscapes made famous by writers such as Betjeman and Geoffrey Chaucer.

Betjeman was a trifle late on the scene when he penned his immortal words on Matlock Bath. People have been quarrying in the area since Roman times - but the arithmetic of

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

the current operations would horrify the poet.

Fleets of eight-wheeler lorries thunder through the area, carrying hundreds of thousands of tons of gritstone. This year, six to seven million tons of limestone will be quarried from the nearby Peak District National Park.

But John Anfield, the park's head of planning, took exception to one local's description of beautiful landscapes being turned into eerie moonscapes.

"Quarrying is a continuing challenge to efforts to conserve the park's beauty and we take a robust approach to any new applications," Mr Anfield said. "Every effort is made to stop quarrying creating eye-

sors, with careful landscaping and tree-planting.

"The industry is a big local employer but we have to remember what the park is all about. Keeping the balance is a great challenge," he added.

Emily Richmond of the council said yesterday: "Moorland which John Betjeman wrote about in his poem *Matlock Bath* is now being quarried for limestone in the Peak National Park. In Kent, the ragstone which forms a band to the north of the Pilgrims' Way,

featured in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, is under threat from quarrying. As you visit areas of south-west England or northern England particularly, you can see huge swaths of landscape have been cut out. This has major implications for our cultural history."

The council has used parts of the countryside with strong literary associations to illustrate the threat posed to the environment by extraction of minerals such as sand, gravel and crushed rock.

Its report, *Quarry Conflicts*, is published at a time when the Government is reviewing its quarrying policy.

In addition to areas that have already been scarred, local authorities have permission to quarry a further four

and a half billion tons of minerals. The council wants new laws that will lead to planning consent being refused where there is already an excessive supply of land to quarry.

The Government is currently waiting for the quarrying industry to make proposals on how it can minimise harm caused to the countryside but the council believes voluntary measures will be insufficient.

Ms Richmond added: "Minerals planning policy risks being stuck in a time warp as the Government begins to green up its act on transport and new housing."

"We need a fresh approach which protects the countryside from damaging quarries and reduces the demand for building materials."

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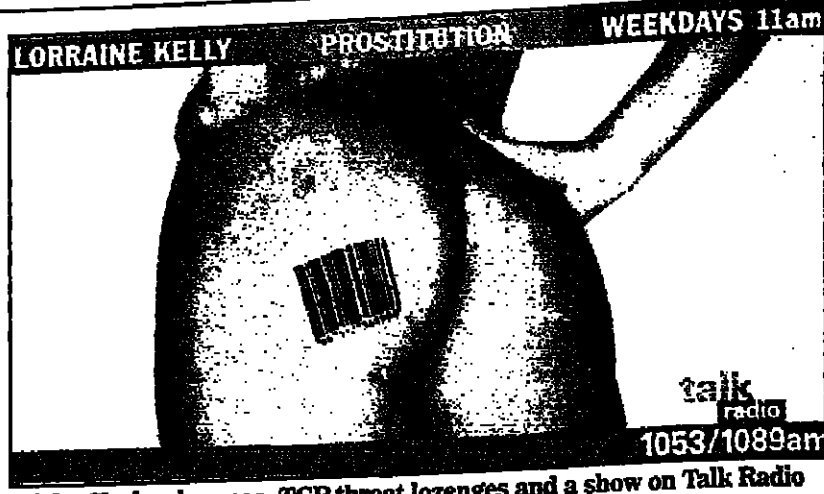
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WHEN I'M A BURGER
I WANT TO BE
WASHED DOWN WITH
IRN-BRU



Adverts that use images of human sex or cruelty to animals received the most public complaints last year. They included ones for the soft drink Irn-Bru, Nicky Clarke shampoo, TCP throat lozenges and a show on Talk Radio

Bovine joke was the most reviled advert of the year

A MOURNFUL looking Jersey cow peers out of what has emerged as the most reviled poster advertisement of 1998. "When I'm a burger," she says, "I want to be washed down with Irn-Bru."

According to the annual report of the Advertising Standards Authority, published today, the bovine musings prompted 589 complaints – the most for a single poster or press advertisement last year.

BY RHYNS WILLIAMS

The watchdog, which polices non-broadcast advertisements in the UK, disagreed with the complainants, concluding that the majority seeing it would not be offended. But the Irn-Bru cow and a press ad for TCP throat lozenges featuring a man with a tiger wrapped around his neck have prompted warnings from the ASA that advertisers need to

take more care when portraying animals. "In past reports," the statement said, "the ASA has highlighted the need for advertisers to be more aware of public sensitivities when portraying women."

"But in 1998, those that attracted most complaints caused problems because of their portrayal of animals."

The ASA's identification of a national unease about the commercial exploitation of

sundry furry animals tallies with concerns expressed about television commercials.

The most controversial TV ad of last year featured a dead pet hamster called Kevin. His tragic demise was brought on by the breakdown of his wheel. "Kevin grew bored and died," said a voiceover, before the dead creature was prodded with a pencil.

The film prompted 519 complaints, a level of outrage

broadly comparable to that provoked by Irn-Bru. The Independent Television Commission ruled that it did not breach its code, but insisted that it be broadcast after the 9pm watershed.

The other common theme of the year was public concern about the depiction of religion and related symbols. *The Sunday Times* provoked 142 complaints with a poster designed to promote a series on the pho-

tographer Terry O'Neill. The ASA agreed that the image of a bearskin bikini-clad female model on the cross was "tasteful, provocative and blasphemous to Christians".

The authority also took a similarly dim view of a Diesel jeans magazine and poster advertisement that featured four young women dressed as nuns from the waist up, wearing jeans and holding rosaries. Behind was the Virgin Mary,

also in jeans. "Pure virginal 100 per cent cotton," read the copy. "The finest denim clothing. This is our mission."

Other ads that attracted complaints included ones for Nicky Clarke shampoo and Talk Radio. The shampoo commercial showed a naked woman perched on the shoulders of a naked man washing his hair in a shower and received 131 complaints. The Talk Radio poster for a Lor-

raine Kelly show about prostitution showed a woman's naked buttocks with one cheek stamped with a barcode.

Overall, the number of complaints increased over the previous year (12,217 as against 10,676 in 1997). The ASA felt that this did not represent a general attempt on the part of advertisers to shock, but instead reflected a high degree of popular concern with a handful of campaigns.

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2 INSERT THE MISSING PAIR.

a. ODRO c. HWLEE
b. OOTB d. EERT

3 FIND THE ODD ONE OUT.



4 WHICH OF THESE SHAPES DOES NOT BELONG?

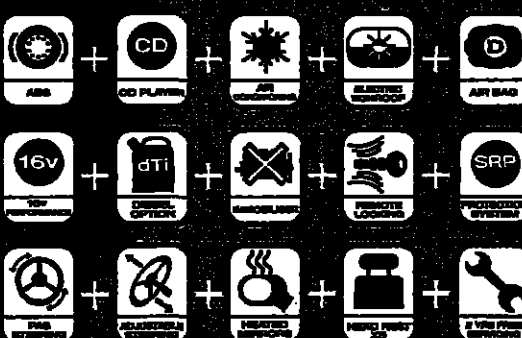
SIDE (_ _) NATION

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5 WHAT WORD COMPLETES THE FIRST AND STARTS THE SECOND?

6 FIND THE WORD THAT CAN BE PREFIXED BY THE FOLLOWING.

£14,705 =



7 LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE FOLLOWING EQUATION. IS IT TRUE OR IS IT SO MIND NUMBINGLY AMAZING YOU CAN'T QUITE GET YOUR HEAD ROUND IT?

Channel 5 criticised for 'tacky' sex shows

THE GOVERNMENT'S television watchdog has taken the highly unusual step of describing Channel 5 as "tacky" in its annual report, because of the broadcaster's use of sex to attract viewers.

ITV was also criticised for failing to broadcast more current affairs programmes and for having only "adequate" coverage of the Nato action in Yugoslavia during prime time this month.

The Independent Television Commission, which regulates commercial channels, singled out Channel 5's late-night "erotic dramas" and factual shows for criticism in its evaluation of how each channel performed during 1998.

Channel 5 was criticised for having a high number of breaches of the ITC programme code during the year and for "the tackiness associated with an increased use of low-budget erotic drama in the evening and of various factual programmes on sexual themes".

Factual programmes such as *The Real Monty*, *Swindon Superbobs*, *Stags and Hens* and *On the Piste* were described as "overly voyeuristic" while the explicitness of *Sex and Shopping* was "unsuitable for broadcast at any time".

This is the second serious criticism of the channel this year. The Broadcasting Standards Commission said its erotic series, *Compromising Situations* and *Hotline*, raised significant issues about whether programmes that in-

By PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

clude sex for sex's sake should be allowed on free-to-air channels in the UK.

At the time, Channel 5's chief executive, David Elstein, called the BSC "anachronistic and patronising" for imposing its taste on the public. However, the ITC can fine channels or even take away licences. The BSC has few powers.

While the ITC praised ITV for increasing its ratings and introducing new programmes, a detailed reading of the channel's performance showed it now airs the lowest amount of current affairs in its history. ITV produced just one hour and 25 minutes of current affairs per week in 1998. In 1997, the regulator had asked ITV to increase the amount of factual programming it broadcasts and last year it doubled its 1997 output. However, most of the new programmes were so-called docu-soaps, or observational documentaries, and the ITC wants ITV to return to more thoughtful documentaries.

The BBC has admitted it was wrong to allow a number of jokes about masturbation in the Christmas Day episode of *Men Behaving Badly*. The BBC admitted its mistake after the Broadcasting Standards Commission yesterday upheld complaints from 18 viewers about the content of the programme. The BBC said it misjudged the different nature of the Christmas night audience.

Waiting list pledge met, says Dobson

A FALL in the number of people waiting for NHS treatment in England means the Government has fulfilled its pledge to cut queues to below pre-election levels, Frank Dobson said yesterday.

The Secretary of State for Health said the reduction was a "magnificent achievement" and reflected the "massive efforts" of NHS staff.

The Conservatives, however, accused Mr Dobson of fiddling the figures. They claimed many people were now waiting longer for an initial hospital appoint-

By MAXINE FRITH

ment that would allow them to go on the official waiting lists.

The number of people waiting for treatment fell by 39,700 in February. The total now stands at 1,119,700 – 38,000 below the figure on 1 May 1997.

Mr Dobson also announced new targets yesterday to increase the number of initial outpatient appointments next year. But the British Medical Association said it would be "impossible" to meet the targets without more consultants.

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FOR THE OTHER ANSWERS, GO TO PAGE 12

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JP 11/03/99

Sandline wins £11m court battle over anti-terrorist action

THE CONTROVERSIAL British security firm Sandline won a court battle in Australia yesterday against the Papua New Guinea government over unpaid fees of \$18m (£11.3m).

The ruling follows Sandline's involvement in an anti-terrorist operation on Bougainville Island that was aborted and

BY PAUL LASHMAR

nearly caused a coup in 1997. Colonel Tim Spencer, Sandline executive and Falklands hero, was arrested and deported. Queensland supreme court said it had no jurisdiction to hear Papua New Guinea's appeal against a 1998 interna-

tional tribunal order that it pay the money. Sandline hired investigators and bailiffs to find and freeze bank accounts across the world held by Papua New Guinea.

"Sandline knows where Papua New Guinea's assets are. The state can run but it cannot hide," said a company

spokesman. "Sandline would hope, although it does not expect, that the government will behave responsibly and meet its liability without wasting further costs in a futile attempt to delay the inevitable." The company has already taken action against Papua New Guinea's accounts with the Bank of Eng-

land and the EU. Sandline has been involved in a number of controversial operations. It was at the centre of the 'Arms in Sierra Leone' scandal that caused great embarrassment to the Foreign Office and to Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary. The Papua New Guinea contract arose from the long-

standing dispute between the government and Melanesian secessionists on Bougainville. The Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister of Papua New Guinea turned to Sandline, "security consultants" based in London, after rebels on Bougainville had cut off a vital copper mine. In 1997 they con-

tracted Sandline to provide military personnel and equipment and paid \$18m of the agreed \$36m fee up-front. But the involvement of foreign troops angered the army, which threatened mutiny. The new government of Bill Skate has refused to pay the outstanding half of the fee. It

says the contract with the previous administration was illegal and unconstitutional. Sandline appealed and the tribunal was convened, which unanimously awarded in favour of Sandline.

The judges ruled that under international law the contract was valid.

Le Pen blow as old ally defects

LIFE CONTINUES to be unpleasant to Jean-Marie Le Pen.

The leader of the far right National Front party has been abandoned by yet another ally, this time Jean Marie Le Chevallier, the mayor of Toulon, who is one of his oldest political friends.

Mr Le Pen has been caught in Belgium with a small arsenal of dangerous weapons in the boot of his car. His position in the opinion polls is slipping close to the point where he could lose all credibility as a force in French politics.

As if this were not enough, a court began hearings yesterday to decide who has the legitimate right to the National Front's name, symbol and cash. If Mr Le Pen loses, he could be forced to share all three with Bruno Mégret, the long-time second force in the NF, who set up his own rival party, the National Front National Movement, in January.

The breakaway party has difficulties of its own. After rising to 6 per cent in the polls - 1 per cent above the mark that it must reach to scoop seats and public subsidies in the European elections in June - Mr Mégret's movement has melted back down to 4 per cent.

But Mr Le Pen's "official" National Front is scarcely doing better. The most recent surveys give the NF only 6 per cent, a third of its score in the polls before the split. If confirmed, this would be the xenophobic and ultra-nationalist party's lowest score for 19 years.

Mr Le Pen, 70, is manifestly rattled and behaving erratically, even by his

BY JOHN LACFIELD
in Paris

own standards. When Belgian police found a loaded semi-automatic rifle, 50 cartridges, and two tear gas grenades in his car in Brussels, he claimed to have been the victim of a sting operation and railed at a local television crew in an insulting, mock-Belgian accent.

The defection of Mr Le Chevallier, the mayor of Toulon - who has declared himself an independent - is especially damaging to Mr Le Pen. The two had been friends for 24 years and political allies for 15 years. Toulon was the jewel in the NF's crown, the largest town it had ever won.

The mayor's defection reduces the number of town halls under Mr Le Pen's control to one - Orange in the Rhône valley. Two other NF-controlled towns, in the Marseilles outer suburbs, have gone with Bruno Mégret, as have more than half of all the party's local councillors nationwide.

Mr Le Chevallier said that he was quitting the NF because he could no longer tolerate Mr Le Pen's unpredictable behaviour and his inability to "share power".

The two men are said to have fallen out several years ago, partly over the increasing influence of Mr Le Chevallier's ambitious wife, Cendrine. Mr Le Pen, it is reported, has not spoken to Cendrine Le Chevallier since 1995.

The mayor of Toulon has, so far, refused to join forces with Mr Mégret, whom he detests. It is thought more likely that he will rejoin the "traditional" right, from which he defected to join Mr Le Pen in 1983.



A girl walking through the rubble of houses destroyed by Monday's earthquake. Aftershocks were still being felt last night. Saurabh Das

Aftershocks hit Indian quake area as death toll rises to 110

SEVERE AFTERSHOCKS hampered rescue workers' efforts yesterday to reach survivors of Monday's earthquake in the Himalayan foothills of northern India.

Witnesses report that people have been using their hands to dig through piles of stone and mud to reach buried relatives in the town of Chamoli, the epicentre of the earthquake, where hundreds of bodies are believed to be entombed in rubble. The official death toll of 110 is expected to rise further.

Landslides triggered by the earthquake - which, at 6.8 on the Richter scale, was the biggest in the region for 90 years - have cut communications with many of the affected

BY JASON BURKE

areas. Indian Air Force planes and helicopters were flying sorties yesterday over the earthquake zone, dropping aid to survivors in remote villages around Chamoli. Many are still without shelter or electricity and have had almost all their food stocks buried. The extent of the damage in the area was still unclear late yesterday.

Shridhar Pathak, Chamoli's senior police officer, said a total of 14 villages had been reported as "destroyed" and that about 90 per cent of Chamoli itself - the local administrative centre - had been damaged.

Nearly 150 people had been rescued from collapsed houses

so far, Mr Pathak said, and several hundred injured were being treated by military medics in makeshift hospitals. At least 5,000 people have been made homeless.

Last night, thousands more villagers spent a third night in the open for fear of further damage from the aftershocks - some registering four on the Richter scale - which continued to shake the area.

Chamoli is at an altitude of nearly 1,070 metres (3,500ft) and many of the affected villages are far higher. Although winter is over, the nights are still cold.

The earthquake struck at 12.35am on Monday when most people were asleep. Entire fam-

ilies were wiped out. One local resident told reporters that five members of his family of seven had died.

Another described how he had spent Monday night digging in the debris of his house with a shovel, only to find two buried relatives dead. Six prisoners were killed when the Chamoli jail collapsed.

"For a minute, all the earth seemed to be shaking... we all ran out of our houses very, very scared," said Himanshu Thapliyal, 28, a lawyer in Bivasi, a small town near Chamoli.

Romesh Sharma, a teacher in Chamoli, said he rushed out of his house when he heard "a terrific noise", only to see the buildings around him collapse.

"I ran for my life to the police station but that, too, had crumpled," he told a local reporter.

Another Chamoli resident said the earthquake felt as "if the earth was coming apart and the mountains were coming crashing down on the villages".

The 40-second jolt cracked buildings 185 miles (300km) away in the capital, Delhi, and was felt in neighbouring Pakistan and Nepal.

Pakistani officials said the earthquake shook the eastern cities of Lahore and Gujranwala. The officials said Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, had sent a message of sympathy to his Indian counterpart, Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Yeltsin speech lands a punch

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

BORIS YELTSIN defied the odds yesterday by delivering his state-of-the-nation speech without disasters, and even landing a punch on the chin of his prime minister by warning him against a "revanche".

His long-awaited speech to parliament, though delivered confidently enough, was far from vintage Yeltsin, being bereft of emotion, let alone passion. It was only 18 minutes long, as he chose to deliver more detailed views on the economy in the form of a written report.

It came at a difficult time, even though Russia was putting itself on the back yesterday after winning an agreement for an IMF loan, the amount to be announced, which looks suspiciously like a Western pay-off to ease Moscow's injured feelings over the Balkans.

In the twilight months of his reign, Mr Yeltsin is overburdened by problems: a shattered economy, attempts by his opponents to curb his powers and even impeach him, chronic ill-health and a corruption investigation that strikes to the heart of the Kremlin.

Respectable these days, he looks weary and remote - more the semi-retired chairman of the board, a vague figurehead who knows nothing of day-to-day details, than an active chief executive. But he got through the performance, his first major speech for months, without serious hiccups, albeit also without much applause. In fact, Mr Yeltsin - or at least his speechwriters - even proved there is light in him yet.

He took several swipes at his premier, Yevgeny Primakov, who was in Belgrade trying to broker peace. He praised the Prime Minister for piloting the country through the perilous months after last August's economic crash, but he also delivered a warning against "new centralisation" - a return, in other words, to Soviet-style interventionism at the expense of market economics and individual freedoms.

Killing shows

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The Laguna



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RENAULT GPF All Renault Lagoons have a 12-month unlimited mileage warranty with free RAC membership plus an 8-year anti-rust warranty and Renault Assistance Service. Manufacturer's recommended retail price on the road, correct at time of going to press, includes 17.5% VAT, delivery to the dealer, number plates, security window etching, 12 months' Government road fund licence and first registration fee of £25. The Renault Laguna RT Alizé Estate from £15,055 on the road. Car shown Renault Laguna Alizé 16V 214,940 (inc. VAT, exc. dealer fees). Other goods or services supplied by arrangement between the customer and dealer are not included. Finance offer, subject to status, applies to any new Renault Laguna ordered and registered by 30th June 1999. Written quotations available on request. Finance provided by RFL Ltd, City House, City Road, Chester CH1 3NL. Free servicing applies to any new Renault Laguna Alizé ordered and registered by 30th June 1999 and is for two free servicing vouchers at service intervals of 12,000 miles and 24,000 miles (10,000 and 20,000 for diesel models) - equivalent to typical annual mileage. Finance and service offers apply to private and business purchases only operating less than 25 vehicles. See your Renault dealer for details.

JP 11/03/99

BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Inside BUSINESS REVIEW today

- How Rupert Murdoch + Canal Plus are battling to divide up Europe's TV
- Is Tomkins a fashion victim or fatally flawed?
- Who's funding the Internet frenzy?
- Revealed: the biggest noise in the music biz

BAT chairman's pay hits £1,017,394

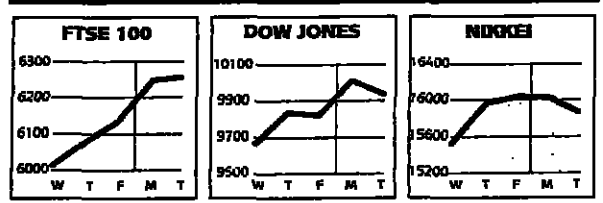
MARTIN BROUGHTON, chairman of British American Tobacco, saw his pay package rise by nearly a third to £1,017,394 in 1998, and exercised options in BAT shares which gave him pre-tax gains worth another £970,054. Mr Broughton, who joined the group in 1971, took home £771,763 in 1997.

Last year BAT demerged its financial services division, principally Eagle Star, and folded it into Allied Zurich. The group also merged its tobacco interests with Rothmans to form one of the biggest cigarette makers in the world. The Right Honourable Kenneth Clarke MP, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, is non-executive deputy chairman of BAT and also chairs the remuneration committee.

DTI may change energy levy

THE GOVERNMENT is considering radical changes to the levy used to fund renewable sources of energy in a bid to reduce electricity bills. The Department of Trade and Industry is planning to replace the present levy, which electricity companies have to pass on to customers, with a system where suppliers have the option to shoulder the levy without charging customers. The proposal, contained in a government consultation paper on renewable energy, could cut up to 1 per cent from the average £350 annual bill.

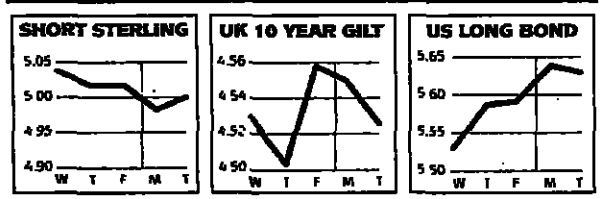
STOCK MARKETS



INDICES

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6264.10	11.20	0.18	6365.40	4599.20	2.47
FTSE 250	5475.80	6.40	0.12	5970.90	4247.60	3.17
FTSE 350	2978.70	5.00	0.17	3024.90	2210.40	2.58
FTSE All Share	2883.10	4.76	0.17	2923.83	2143.53	2.63
FTSE SmallCap	2396.40	1.90	0.08	2793.80	1834.40	3.61
FTSE MidCap	1302.60	0.90	0.07	1517.10	1046.20	4.01
FTSE AIM	666.10	1.40	0.16	1148.90	761.30	1.13
FTSE Europe 100	2903.26	-8.95	-0.31	3079.27	2018.15	2.00
FTSE Europe 300	1250.71	-6.06	-0.48	1332.07	880.63	1.93
Dow Jones	9827.14	-76.04	-0.76	10065.31	7400.30	1.60
Nikkei	15859.12	-149.72	-0.94	17009.89	12787.90	0.85
Hang Seng	10940.21	251.74	2.36	11874.74	6544.79	3.25
Dax	4856.84	-20.08	-0.41	5217.83	3833.71	1.68
S&P 500	1305.22	-4.41	-0.34	1323.88	923.32	1.23
Nasdaq	2502.12	9.89	0.40	2523.44	1317.09	0.28
Toronto 300	6643.80	-8.17	-0.12	7837.70	5320.90	1.60
Brazil Bovespa	11052.47	184.70	1.70	12339.14	4575.69	4.81
Belgium Bel20	3260.80	6.43	0.20	3713.21	2696.26	2.02
Amsterdam AEX	534.40	-0.16	-0.03	600.65	366.58	1.88
France CAC 40	4141.98	-11.67	-0.28	4404.94	2881.21	1.74
Milan MIB30	36463.00	-30.00	-0.08	39170.00	24175.00	1.06
Madrid IBS 35	9677.00	-71.10	-0.73	10399.80	6889.90	1.81
High Overall	5766.08	43.12	0.82	5581.70	3732.37	1.52
S. Korea Comp	618.05	16.98	2.83	651.95	277.37	1.12
Australia ASX	2995.30	21.30	0.72	3005.20	2386.70	3.10

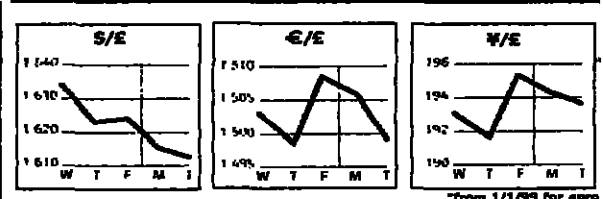
INTEREST RATES



MONEY MARKET RATES

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	5.33	-2.27	5.25	-2.36	4.52	-1.42	4.51	-1.34
US	5.00	-0.69	5.28	-0.59	5.63	0.35	5.63	0.35
Japan	0.19	-0.52	0.25	-0.43	1.74	-0.15	2.48	0.01
Germany	2.98	-0.59	2.98	-0.84	4.05	-0.88	5.04	-0.47

CURRENCIES



POUND

Index	at 3pm	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6125	-0.23c	1.6772
Yen	1.4992	-0.70c	1.4079
Euro	193.83	+0.48	221.20
£ index	103.20	-0.60	108.70

DOLLAR

Index	at 3pm	Change	Yr Ago
Sterling	0.6302	+0.09p	0.5962
Euro	0.9291	-14.31c	0.8971
Yen	120.15	+0.44	131.92
£ index	108.90	+0.10	110.30

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	14.46	0.00	14.28
Gold (\$)	279.55	-0.90	301.40
Saver (\$)	5.12	0.02	6.35

TOURIST RATES

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Australia (\$)	2.4828		
Austria (schillings)	20.05		
Belgium (francs)	58.96		
Canada (\$)	2.3828		
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8435		
Denmark (kroner)	10.91		
Finland (markka)	8.7121		
France (francs)	9.5824		
Germany (marks)	2.8652		
Greece (drachma)	476.33		
Hong Kong (\$)	12.14		
Ireland (pounds)	1.1478		
India (rupees)	61.67		
Israel (shekels)	6.0562		
Italy (lira)	2840		
Japan (yen)	190.46		
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.8474		
Malta (lira)	0.6216		
Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.15		
Netherlands (guilders)	3.2163		
New Zealand (\$)	2.9161		
Norway (kroner)	12.27		
Portugal (escudos)	291.09		
Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.8904		
Singapore (\$)	2.6605		
South Africa (rand)	9.6253		
Spain (pesetas)	242.56		
Sweden (kronor)	13.16		
Switzerland (francs)	2.3422		
Thailand (bahts)	55.27		
Turkey (liras)	573.200		
USA (\$)	1.5793		

Source: Thomas Cook

Biggest jump in house prices since 1997

HOUSE PRICES last month recorded their biggest increase since September 1997, according to new figures from Nationwide. It was the latest sign that the housing market is recovering from its winter downturn.

"House price inflation could be heading back towards double figures," said Jonathan Loyne, an economist at HSBC Markets.

Nationwide, which publishes one of two monthly house price

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

indices, said prices jumped by 1.5 per cent in March, taking the year-on-year increase to 7.6 per cent. This followed a subdued February, when prices rose by just 0.1 per cent.

Halfax said its March index, published next week, is likely to show a slight increase. Its price figures have been well below Nationwide's for the past two

years, and showed a 0.5 per cent drop in February. David Parry, Nationwide's head of planning, said: "Although spring usually produces an upturn in the housing market, there are tentative signs the recent series of interest-rate cuts have helped boost confidence."

The Easter weekend is a crucial time for the housing market, traditionally bringing a big upturn in sales.

Other indicators have pointed

to a revival in the market. Surveys of estate agents and figures on mortgage approvals have both indicated the start of a recovery. In addition, underlying conditions are favourable; mortgage rates are at their lowest for more than 30 years, and properties are affordable by past standards.

However, this month's Budget dealt a blow by abolishing mortgage tax relief from April 2000. It also raised stamp duty on

properties priced at above £50,000, which will dampen the top end of the market. But the biggest question mark over the outlook for house prices remains the length and severity of the economic downturn. "We have had the interest-rate cuts, but nobody has felt the pinch of rising unemployment yet," said Mr Loyne.

Although most forecasters reckon the slowdown will be moderate, few are as optimistic

as the Treasury, which is predicting 1 per cent growth this year. Unemployment rose slightly last month, according to the latest official figures.

Even so, the Bank of England is expected to cut rates further. The Monetary Policy Committee could act as soon as next week, according to some analysts.

The average UK house price stands at £68,308 on Nationwide's figures, up from £63,493 a year ago.

BMW sets four-week deadline for Rover aid

BY MICHAEL HARRISON
Business Editor

BMW YESTERDAY gave the Government a four-week deadline to come up with an acceptable aid package for Rover's Longbridge car plant in Birmingham or risk seeing a £1.7bn investment in a new family model go overseas.

The German car maker is seeking a subsidy of up to £200m to support the manufacture of a new range of medium-sized cars to replace the Rover 200 and 400 series. The alternative is to build the new cars in Hungary - a move that would spell the end of Longbridge, threatening up to 50,000 motor industry jobs in the West Midlands.

A fortnight ago the Department of Trade and Industry shocked BMW by offering an aid package worth only £118m. Discussions have continued, and a spokesman for the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Stephen Byers, repeated yesterday that he was confident of agreeing a deal.

But speaking in Munich, the new BMW chairman, Professor Joachim Milberg, said: "The longer the negotiations drag on, the greater will become the likelihood of a production site outside Great Britain."

Prof Milberg hinted that a rival aid offer from Hungary could be higher than that made by Britain. "Hungary would have advantages in comparison to Longbridge, but there are a number of factors playing a role which have to be taken into account," he said.

DTI sources suggested there was an element of brinkman-



Joachim Milberg yesterday: Hinted that Hungary's aid offer could top the UK's

Michael Kappeler/Reuters

ship in the BMW chairman's comments, noting that there had never yet been an application for regional assistance where the company involved had not applied for more money than it needed.

"This is not just a case of us bunging a blank cheque in the direction of BMW and letting them do what they want with it," he added.

The aid package, if one can be agreed, will come with a list of conditions relating to BMW's

overall investment in Longbridge and the level of productivity and skills improvements that will be achieved.

BMW is already cutting 2,500 jobs at Rover, and there will be further redundancies even if Longbridge is selected for the new family of cars, codenamed the R30 series. However, Prof Milberg said he was sure that no compulsory redundancies would be necessary given the age of the Rover workforce and the high take-up of previous

voluntary severance schemes. The local MP for the Longbridge area said Prof Milberg's warnings about the dangers of the talks dragging on had to be taken seriously. But Richard Burden, the Labour member for Birmingham Northfield, added: "The important thing is that the discussions between the Government and the company should come to a successful conclusion."

Meanwhile, BMW produced fresh evidence of the continuing

free fall in Rover's share of the car market following its £650m loss last year. In the first three months of this year, sales fell by 38 per cent. Rover sales fell 3 per cent in March, even though the market overall has been boosted by about 50 per cent because of the introduction of the new registration letter.

Sales in Europe, excluding the UK, were down by 40 per cent on a year ago. In Italy, an important market for Rover, the fall was 53 per cent.

Enterprise and Lasso abandon merger talks

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

ENTERPRISE OIL and Lasso yesterday abandoned merger talks vowing that each had better prospects remaining as independent oil exploration companies.

In a statement issued after the markets had closed, the two companies said: "Having considered the possible merits of a merger, and the contributions that each company would have made to the combination, both companies have concluded that they are better placed to add value independently."

Lasso fought off a hostile £1.6bn bid from Enterprise five years ago. A merger would have created one of the biggest independent oil exploration groups in the sector with a market capitalisation of just under £2bn.

But after three months of negotiations, it was decided not to go ahead with a merger because, as one source put it, "the risks outweighed the benefits".

There would have been cost savings of about £20m but this was not sufficient to justify the risks involved in putting two different production and exploration portfolios and management styles together. There were also concerns about the disposal programme that would have been necessary and whether the assets would have fetched an acceptable price.

Although Enterprise initiated the talks and was always the keener of the two on a merger, Pierre Jungels, its chief executive, would not have had a role in the enlarged group. Joe Darby, the chief executive of Lasso, would have taken on that post while its chairman would have been the Enterprise chairman, Sir Graham Hearn.

Mr Jungels said: "When we looked at the overall package it did not stack up."

European Commission cuts growth forecast

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels

EUROPE AGAIN cut its growth forecast yesterday, blaming the international economic turmoil and raising the pressure on the European Central Bank to reduce interest rates.

The latest round of gloomy statistics reflect lower economic expectations from the biggest EU nations, including Germany where the slowdown in 1999 is expected, according to a separate EU document, to be "more pronounced than in most other member states".

The European Commission expects euro zone gross domestic product to rise by just 2.2 per cent in 1999 and 2.7 per cent in 2000, compared with forecasts last autumn of 2.6 and 2.9 per cent respectively.

Growth in all 15 EU countries was also marked down at 2.1 per cent for 1999 as opposed to 2.4 per cent predicted earlier. The

UK economy is also expected to perform worse than predicted this year, growth for 1999 is expected to be 1.1 per cent, rather than the 1.3 per cent forecast last October. But for 2000, Brussels expects the UK economy to

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perform worse than predicted this year, growth for 1999 is expected to be 1.1 per cent, rather than the 1.3 per cent forecast last October. But for 2000, Brussels expects the UK economy to

grow at 2.3 per cent, as opposed to the 2.1 per cent it predicted last year.

There was also praise for the UK in Commission recommendations on member states' economic policy guidelines, which singled out the UK employment rate as one of the best in Europe. But the document added: "Growth of small business, innovation and research and development expenditure are all relatively weak."

Germany's slowdown is blamed on the country's greater-than-average exposure to world trade and some domestic influences, including the depressed construction industry.

Although the new figures put further pressure on the euro, the Monetary Affairs Commissioner, Yves-Thibault de Silguy, insisted that its current level was "not a source of concern".



Rosemary Thorne: In line for substantial pay-off

"I think they needed a stronger personality in that job, though it is not fair to blame Sainsbury's problems on her," one analyst said.

Mike Dennis at SG Securities added: "You have to ask whether this really changes anything in the business. The key people behind their strategy - which has not exactly covered itself in glory - are still there."

Sainsbury's is now looking for a replacement but would not say if an internal appointment was possible. The company is backing its marketing director, Kevin McCarten, who has been criticised after the unsuccessful "Value to Shout About" advertising campaign starring John Cleese. In the new board he has been given extra responsibility for brand development.

The shares fell by 0.25p yesterday to 380.75p.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

IN ANOTHER day of heavy trading, blue chips edged ahead, ignoring a poor opening in New York. The prospect of more corporate activity and even lower interest rates helped Footsie to an 11.2-point gain to 6,264.1; supporting indices also moved ahead.

Derek Pain, page 17

NEW YORK

THE DOW JONES retreated from Monday's record close, losing almost 1 per cent after Coca-Cola, the world's largest soft drinks company, unexpectedly warned of lower sales.

Coke, which issued its sales warning just minutes after the US market closed for trade on Monday, was one of the day's biggest fallers. By the early afternoon, its shares were down \$2 1/2 at \$62 3/4, helping to drag the Dow average down by 83.25 points to 9,823.53.

TOKYO

RECORD JOBLESS numbers and the slump in spending figures hit hopes of an early recovery in the Japanese economy. Unemployment in Japan has topped 3 million for the first time, according to official figures, and household spending tumbled 5.7 per cent in January to a 13-year low.

The weak economic data took their toll on the Nikkei 225 index, which shrugged off Monday's record performance on Wall Street to close down by 149.72 points at 15,859.12.

HONG KONG

STRONG futures-related buying and the Dow's record close pushed Hong Kong stocks over 2 per cent higher yesterday. The Hang Seng closed up 251.74 points at 10,940.21, just off its day's highs. The expiry of March Hang Seng futures contributed to heavy trading volume on the exchange. "The strength of the April futures, following settlement of the March futures, indicates there's still a bit of buying interest around," said one analyst.

FRANKFURT

CONCERN ABOUT the action in Kosovo hit stocks in Frankfurt, which gave up early gains to close lower yesterday. The electronically-traded Xetra DAX finished down 26.01 points, or 0.53 per cent, at 4,941.20. The floor DAX ended down 0.41 per cent at 4,856.84.

BMW led the decliners, dropping almost 3 per cent after it said it hoped to match last year's earnings in 1999 and that deliveries had fallen by 15,000 units in the first three months of the year.

SECRET

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100

Cautious Emap feels the heat

EMAP, the publisher and radio broadcaster, seems to have embarked on a policy of talking down its shares. They fell 61p to 1,220p following what was described as "cautious" investment meetings that prompted some analysts to reduce profit estimates.

The former East Midlands Allied Press had the dubious distinction of heading the list of Footsie fallers, only last week the shares joined the blue-chip index, reflecting their recent strong performance and expansion moves.

The market seemed to get the impression that Emap was playing down expectations for its recent US acquisition and was pointing to the tough competition it faced in the domestic magazine market. Analysts fretted about the launch of *Head*, Emap's new listings title. Circulation appeared to be well below expectations and the publication could be a drag on next year's performance.

MEARS, the maintenance services group, is expected to produce profits of £1.2m this year after lifting last year's figure by 26 per cent to £821,000. Group turnover rose by 25 per cent to £19.5m.

Enlight Investment Trust, the small company specialist run by Peter Webb, has moved into Mears, picking up a 12 per cent interest in the group, taking the total institutional shareholder representation to around 50 per cent of the capital.

BT Alex Brown, the company's stockbroker, was among those to lower profit estimates. Warburg Dillon Read reduced its target price to 1,200p from 1,300p. Morgan Stanley cut its profits forecast to £160m for the year ending today, with a £190m estimate for the following year. It lifted its target price to 1,400p. Last year the group produced profits of £142m.

Mirror, the newspaper publisher in the takeover arena, showed Emap (and others) how to strengthen their shares - get an Internet connection. The price rose 6p to 211p after it revealed it had formed an interactive services division offering free Internet access.

Footsie, for once, ignored a weak New York display, closing with a modest 11.2-point gain to 6,264.1. Supporting indices were firm. Once again trading was busy with the usual end-March considerations, plus the late rush into PEPs, encouraging another day of high share volume.

Hopes of lower interest rates continued to circulate and

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

The market confidently looked forward to another round of corporate activity, with the BP Amoco deal with Atlantic Richfield expected to be announced today as well as Imperial Chemical Industries' £2bn sell-off. But slim hopes that Enterprise Oil will finally tie the knot with Lazard were dashed after the market closed when their merger talks, to nobody's surprise, were called off.

BP firmed up to 1,079p, ICI shaded to 560p; Enterprise rose 14.5p to 387.5p and Lazard slipped 1.75p to 153.75p.

SmithKline Beecham, reflecting hopes of drugs bid fever, rose 36.5p to 892p; Zeneca, as its mega-merger with Sweden's Astra was about to be sealed, hit a 2.945p peak, up 110p.

Pillington, the glass group, remained high on the speculative list, gaining 4p (after 8.5p) on talk of an overseas strike.

Centrica, the gas group, fell 4.25p to 109p as Deutsche Morgan Grenfell placed 41 million shares sold by two institutions.

Storehouse, the R&S retail chain, continued to attract support as whispers of a US strike again went the rounds. The shares rose 8.5p to 145p in brisk trading. But Safeway's flirtation with the speculators ended, at least for the time being, with the shares off 9.75p to 244p.

Boots was another to feel an analytical kick. The price fell 28.5p to 892p after Merrill Lynch turned cautious, citing a slowdown in margin growth.

Bid action - fact and fiction - was again evident on the un-

dercard. Stanley Leisure, a shade lower at 297.5p, agreed a 85p-a-share offer for Capital Corporation, the casino operator, little changed at 81p. Addscene, the publisher, rose 38.5p to 199p after reporting a bid approach.

Even pub chain Inn Business, filed by Enterprise Inns in favour of Century Inns, managed a 3p gain to 69.5p. Waterfall, the snooker group, made another attempt to pot European Leisure, saying it had made a 100p share exchange offer; European, seeking to merge with Allied Leisure, rejected the "indicative" bid. Waterfall was the only one of the trio to move, losing 1.5p to 58p.

Brest International, the chemical group, fell 4.5p to 96.5p as some investors grew tired of waiting for the long-running takeover talks to produce a result. There is also a growing suspicion that the negotiations have hit problems and

MACRO 4, the software group where new management is in charge, should lift profits in the year to June by around £2m to £28.25m, believes stockbroker Greig Middleton. Its analysts, Judy Stewart and Dominic Wilson, are going for £29m next year.

The company's shares are tightly held, but the analysts believe the group could be tempted to go along the takeover trail and increase its capital by offering shares for acquisitions.

may soon be called off.

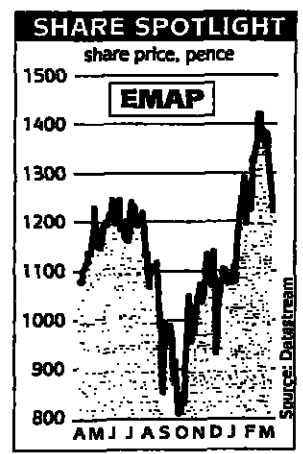
Unitel, an engineering services group, added 4.5p to 24.5p as a management buyout was mooted. Devro, a sausage skin maker, slipped 19p to 142p on talk of an mbo.

Taylor Nelson Sofres, the information and marketing group, was busily traded on vague talk of corporate action, gaining 1.25p to 138p. Metal Bulletin, which has enjoyed speculative furies in the past, firmed 7.5p to 1,625p.

Oriental Restaurants, with six outlets in the City, talked of tough trading and its shares fell 16.5p to 137.5p. Bahma, the engineer, lost 2.5p to 96.5p after HSBC made cautious noises. The expected profits gloom at Corporate Services lowered the shares 6.5p to 71p.

AEA Technologies continued to suffer from its warning that profits will be flat, falling a further 38.5p to 349.5p. The shares have been as high as 1,030p in the past 12 months.

SEAL VOLUME: 1.09 billion
SEAL TRADING: n/a
GILTS INDEX: 113.36 -0.05



COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
Barclays (P)	5,880 (6.3m)	0,930m (2.2m)	1.28p (5.04p)	2.5p (2.5p)	25.05.99	12.04.99
British Telecomm (P)	90,800 (62.5m)	0.33m (6.8m)	4.5p (8.8p)	2.25p (3.1p)	24.06.99	12.04.99
Chubb (P)	24,480 (17.8m)	8.0m (5.1m)	7.5p (5.3p)	-	-	-
Compass Property Group (P)	38,480 (14.0m)	3.25m (3.25m)	12.50p (10.0p)	4.75p (15.1p)	08.08.99	04.05.99
Compass Insurance Holdings (P)	-	6.91m (7.1m)	7.75p (8.5p)	5.3p (5.3p)	08.08.99	04.05.99
Debenhams (P)	40,320 (7.4m)	6.41m (7.7m)	20.1p (22.2p)	11p (11p)	08.08.99	17.05.99
Enterprise (P)	279.7m (20.3m)	41.3m (38.0m)	10.50p (10.0p)	3.80p (3.80p)	18.07.99	12.04.99
Enterprise Inns (P)	112.4m (113.7m)	23.5m (25.1m)	11.0p (12.3p)	2.5p (2.5p)	07.08.99	04.05.99
Enterprise Oil (P)	100.5m (102.2m)	18.0m (18.0m)	16.80p (14.7p)	7p (7p)	24.05.99	12.04.99
Enterprise Retail (P)	3.94m (3.5m)	0.48m (0.48m)	11.50p (11.5p)	3.50p (3.5p)	01.07.99	-
Enterprise Trust (P)	201.72m (211.50m)	32.04m (42.10m)	15.70p (16.0p)	-	-	-
Enterprise United (P)	55.3m (55.3m)	11.1m (15.4m)	11.50p (11.5p)	0.4p (0.3p)	01.07.99	12.04.99
Enterprise Group (P)	18.85m (15.6m)	0.82m (0.82m)	1.50p (1.25p)	10p (10p)	25.08.99	26.04.99
Enterprise Services (P)	61.55m (50.2m)	17.99m (10.7m)	38.2p (24.8p)	9.0p (7.4p)	-	-
Enterprise Trust (P)	1,920m (1,920m)	4.82m (7.32m)	5p (6.7p)	7.1p (7.1p)	-	-
Enterprise Group (P)	422.94m (483.57m)	18.55m (18.55m)	23.0p (26.0p)	-	-	-
Enterprise Holdings (P)	9.88m (13.18m)	0.173m (0.287m)	27.8p (1.1p)	-	-	-

(P) - Profit (L) - Loss (S) - Share Period (N) - Nine Months

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Starting	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year	5 years
UK	1.0000					
Australia	2.5707	2.5699	2.5695	1.5940	1.5941	1.5941
Canada	20.614	20.603	20.590	12.72	12.72	12.72
Denmark	10.466	10.461	10.453	6.0911	6.0911	6.0911
France	2.4399	2.4370	2.4362	1.5117	1.5117	1.5117
Germany	11.125	11.111	11.076	6.912	6.912	6.912
Italy	1.9381	1.9381	1.9381	1.1514	1.1514	1.1514
Japan	160.969	160.884	160.852	95.515	95.515	95.515
Netherlands	2.0369	2.0369	2.0369	1.2168	1.2168	1.2168
Sweden	8.4867	8.4867	8.4867	5.0514	5.0514	5.0514
Switzerland	1.4837	1.4837	1.4837	0.9314	0.9314	0.9314
USA	1.6127	1.6127	1.6127	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Starting	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year	5 years
Argentina	1.0046	0.9950	0.9950	0.6209	0.6209	0.6209
Brazil	2.7559	2.7559	2.7559	1.7370	1.7370	1.7370
China	13.160	13.160	13.160	8.3919	8.3919	8.3919
China Rep	57.514	57.514	57.514	3.8994	3.8994	3.8994
India	35.524	35.524	35.524	2.2934	2.2934	2.2934
Indonesia	362.87	362.87	362.87	1.9514	1.9514	1.9514
Japan	140.924	140.924	140.924	90.594	90.594	90.594
Korea	140.924	140.924	140.924	60.166	60.166	60.166
Malaysia	0.4932	0.4932	0.4932	5.9226	5.9226	5.9226
Nigeria	141.24	141.24	141.24	3.6725	3.6725	3.6725

Rugby's £250m sell-off permits Scancem bids

BY FRANCISCO GUERRERA

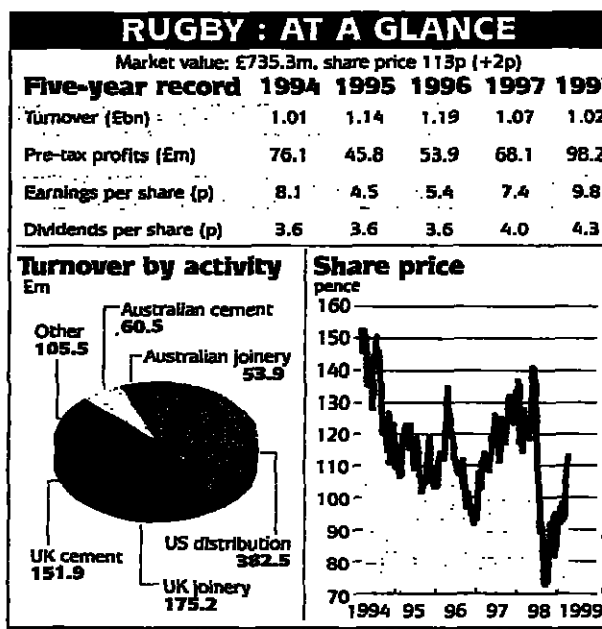
RUGBY, Britain's third-biggest cement producer, is to use the proceeds of a £250m disposal programme to bid for assets in Scancem, the Nordic building materials giant.

The UK group yesterday pleased the City with radical plans to sell all its joinery and materials businesses to focus on cement and lime operations.

Rugby said it was in advanced talks with Jeld-Wen, a private US company, over the sale of its US, UK and Australian joinery companies, which make doors and window frames, and its US distribution subsidiary. The disposals are likely to net Rugby over £250m. They will involve the loss of 770m of sales, 70 per cent of group turnover.

The chief executive, Peter Johnson, said the sales would help Rugby make inroads into the global cement market. "The cement industry is like a jungle and you cannot go into the jungle with one eye on the joinery business," he said.

Funds raised will enable Rugby to participate in the an-



tion for Scancem, owner of Castle Cement, the second-ranked UK cement maker. The Scandinavian company is being sold by its joint owners, Skanska of Sweden and Aker of Norway. The sale has attracted interest

European assets, Scancem owns firms in Finland, the Baltic States and Poland, which fit with Rugby's Polish business.

The UK company could also buy parts of Castle Cement, although buying the entire group would be blocked on competition grounds.

News of the sales and potential purchases overshadowed Rugby's 1998 results. The group posted a small increase in operating profit to £76.9m on sales down 4 per cent to £1,020m.

Analysis said the restructuring raised the chance of a bid for Rugby. "After the disposals, they are a very tidy up company. If there is a predator, Rugby is doing all the dirty work for them," said David Taylor of Teather & Greenwood.

After the sale of Castle Cement, Rugby will be the only large UK cement producer available to buy. It could attract European giants such as Lafarge and CRH, believe analysts. Profit forecasts for 1999 and the p/e ratio are now academic, but given the bid prospects Rugby's shares, up 2p to 113p yesterday, are a good speculative buy.

Selfridges to review Oxford Street site Highland in £800m link-up with Remy

BY NIGEL COPE Associate City Editor

Oxford Street shop are ahead by 7 per cent on a like-for-like basis. Sales at the new store at Trafford Park in Manchester are ahead of expectations, with a profit contribution of £400,000 in the first 20 weeks' trading.

But analysts said that if Selfridges had to pay rent on the Oxford Street store, where it owns the freehold, the group would barely be breaking even. The shares - up by 8p to a new high of 250p yesterday - are trading on a forward multiple of 19 times current-year earnings forecasts, a level that is starting to look quite high. On the plus side, the 3.6 per cent stake held by British Land offers bid support, as does the Oxford Street freehold valuation of 212p per share. A weak hold, say analysts.

BY FRANCISCO GUERRERA

Under the joint venture, which will have turnover of £800m, the three partners will each inject assets and cash worth £75m. Highland will put in its distribution network and sales force, valued at £45m, and £30m cash. The funds will come from the repayment of a £90m bond from Remy Cointreau.

News of the venture offset Highland's disappointing interim, sending the shares 0.5p higher to 232p. Pre-tax profits slipped 6 per cent to £23.5m as demand for cheaper whiskies was hit by the Asian downturn. Analysts downgraded full-year forecasts from £45m to £42m, leaving the shares on a forward multiple of about 10. With the new deal they are worth holding despite the uncertain market conditions.

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Philip Green sets off alarm

SEVERAL SELFRIDGES people were recalling yesterday how they first encountered Philip Green, the man who bought the Sears stores chain a couple of months ago.

Of course, Sears and Selfridges demerged a year ago, but they continue to share offices on the top floor of the Oxford Street department store. When Sears succumbed to Mr Green's hostile bid the Selfridges staff realised they faced the risk of bumping into the corporate raider in the lift.

In fact, this didn't happen. The only evidence of Mr Green's presence was the fire alarm, which kept going off when he entered the building. Apparently Mr Green's cigars were the problem.

But that seems to have stopped. As one Selfridges insider said yesterday: "Maybe Mr Green is a bit more relaxed now."

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

Barclays' yanks

AND SO another American flies in to help rebuild the fortunes of Barclays Bank.

Robert Hunter, a native of New Jersey, is joining Barclays as managing director of its wealth management business, after three years at the helm of Standard & Poor's financial information services.

Mr Hunter, who previously spent 28 years with Chase Manhattan, will be joining in May. He is well known to Barclays' new chief executive, fellow American Mike O'Neill, who himself arrives to assume command of the banking group on Monday week.

What with Bob Diamond running the bank's investment



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for dealing with newspaper mergers that are referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC).

When a merger is referred to the MMC, up to three members of the panel may be seconded to the MMC to help decide on that particular deal.

The new panel members include Ewe Pollard, former editor of the *Sunday Mirror*, Professor Donald Trefford, ex-editor of *The Observer*, and Charles Wilson, former managing director of Mirror Group and a former editor of *The Independent*.

Kim Howells, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Competition and Consumer Affairs, has also appointed five others: Sarwar Ahmed, who founded Eastern Eye in 1989; Linda Christmas, director of the post-graduate course in newspaper journalism at City University, London; William Gibson, former managing director of Financial Times Business Information; Gerry Holbrook, former managing director of Yorkshire Post Newspapers, and

IN BRIEF

Zergo to get dual listing on Nasdaq

ZERGO, the Internet security software group, is preparing to deliver a snub to the Stock Exchange by obtaining a dual listing on Nasdaq, the US exchange, in the next year. The company said it was selecting a bank to advise it on the listing, which is likely to be combined with a fundraising. The Stock Exchange's new information technology sector is due to go live this week.

BT go-ahead

THE EUROPEAN Commission yesterday cleared the alliance between British Telecom and AT&T, opening the way for the £10bn (£8.2bn) joint venture to start trading later this summer. The deal was cleared after AT&T agreed to sell its UK division, ACC, and agreed to a "greater structural separation" from Twest, the cable operator of which it owns 22 per cent.

Terranova says no

TERRANOVA FOODS repeated its rejection of Unilever's £238.5m hostile bid yesterday but conceded that price is the key issue rather than strategic logic. Unveiling its defence document, Terranova said the 125p cash offer undervalued the company and failed to recognise the importance of its position in growing chilled foods markets and the strategic value of its continental European operations.

Scotia upbeat

SCOTIA EXPECTS to move into profit in three years, the drug development company said yesterday as it unveiled a £23.6m loss for 1998, down from a £26.6m loss in 1997. The company expects Foscan, its photosensitising drug, which is injected at the site of tumours and then exposed directly to a laser that destroys cancerous cells, to come to the US market next year.

Elementis

IN YESTERDAY'S newspaper a brief item mistakenly appeared under the heading "Elementis shock", which said that the company had issued a profit warning and that the shares had lost 27 per cent in value. In fact, this was a version of a story which appeared in November 1998. Elementis shares were unchanged on Monday at 93p. We apologise for this error.

Joyce Hopkirk, the former launch editor of *Cosmopolitan*.

On the move

DR DAVID UPFRICHARD, who stepped down as chairman of research and development at SmithKline Beecham recently after only 18 months in the job, has popped up as a non-executive director of RiboTargets, a Cambridge-based biotechnology company.

Dr Upfrichard, 50, was international research director at Zeneca Pharmaceuticals between 1994 and 1997, when he moved to SmithKline Beecham. RiboTargets was formed in July 1997 to commercialise revolutionary developments in the understanding of RNA, the link between the genetic information contained in DNA and protein synthesis. The company is involved in developing a range of drugs to combat HIV and Hepatitis C.

E-mail: j.willcock@independent.co.uk

INTEREST RATES

Country	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year
UK	5.50%	5.25%	5.00%	4.75%	4.50%	4.25%	4.00%
Germany	5.50%	5.25%	5.00%	4.75%	4.50%	4.25%	4.00%
France	5.50%	5.25%	5.00%	4.75%	4.50%	4.25%	4.00%
Italy	5.50%	5.25%	5.00%	4.75%	4.50%	4.25%	4.00%
Spain	5.50%	5.25%	5.00%	4.75%	4.50%	4.25%	4.00%
Sweden	5.50%	5.25%	5.00%	4.75%	4.50%	4.25%	4.00%
Switzerland	5.50%	5.25%	5.00%	4.75%	4.50%	4.25%	4.00%
USA	5.50%	5.25%	5.00%	4.75%	4.50%	4.25%	4.00%

MONEY MARKET RATES							
	Overnight 1st Offer	1 week 1st Offer	1 month 1st Offer	3 months 1st Offer	6 months 1st Offer	1 year 1st Offer	
Treasury Bills			5.11 5.01	4.94 4.84			
LIBOR			5.42 5.40	5.31 5.28			
Commercial Paper			5.27 5.27	5.13 5.25			
Commercial Paper	5.94 6.05	5.31 5.44	5.41 5.41	5.13 5.25	5.25 5.25	5.25 5.25	
Commercial Paper	5.56 5.69	5.41 5.47	5.41 5.41	5.13 5.25	5.19 5.13	5.08 5.10	
Commercial Paper			5.18 5.28	5.04 5.04	5.01 5.01	5.13 5.19	
Commercial Paper			5.45 5.47	5.10 5.12	5.17 5.04	5.13 5.05	
Commercial Paper			4.82 4.82	4.91 4.91			
Commercial Paper			3.01 3.01	3.00 3.00	2.98 2.98	2.96 2.96	2.96 2.98
www.bloomberg.com/uk				Source: Bloomberg			

[illegible][illegible]

SPORT

'My job is not to look after me but the nippers who want to do what I did in 1954-55, and go to every home match'

Banks busy playing great games



THE BRIAN VINER INTERVIEW

ACCORDING TO *The Wit and Wisdom of Tony Banks* (Robson Books, £7.99), the left-wing MP's response when Tony Blair phoned to ask if he fancied becoming Minister for Sport was: "Is the Pope Catholic?" I can now exclusively reveal that this is untrue. For in a rather grand committee room at the House of Commons, Banks fills me in on the precise details of his exchange with Blair. "I'm not an ambitious politician," he explains. "I've never been much of a team player. I'm a bit semi-detached, as they say. I hadn't even supported his leadership bid. So it caught me completely on the hop." What did he actually say, then? "I think that my exact words were: 'Fuck me!'"

Not the wittiest or wisest response, perhaps, but at least an honest one. And a brace of words, moreover, that must have echoed round Westminster, if not the country, when Banks' appointment was announced. For, as he is the first to

'I've never been much of a team player. I'm a bit semi-detached. I hadn't even supported Tony Blair's leadership bid'

admit, the dapper 55-year-old MP for West Ham is not known for toying with the party line. Indeed, when the *Independent* photographer arrives, he shows just how unpredictable he is. His right profile, he tells us, is better than his left.

Returning for a moment to *The Wit and Wisdom of Tony Banks*, the Sports Minister is quoted as saying that: "I couldn't possibly emulate the feats of one D Mellor. Since the great days of Jimmy Greaves, it's the only time anyone's managed to score five times in a Chelsea shirt. The question we were all asking, of course, is did they change ends at half-time?"

Whether or not he was correctly quoted, this is a reference, as everyone knows, to the extramarital frolics of his fellow Chelsea fan David Mellor. To me, Banks points out that, compared with his own 45-year love affair, Mellor is "with great respect, a relative newcomer to Chelsea". But never mind football allegiances, or even Antonio de Sancha. I am eager to know what Banks really thinks of Mellor, head of football's so-called Task Force. For, except in their regard for Gianluca Vialli's squad rotation system, they are hardly soul-mates.

"I proposed his appointment to the Task Force," says Banks. "From a political point of view, it would have been easier to find someone else.



Tony Banks has courted controversy as Minister for Sport but not even his detractors would deny that he has a formidable appetite for the job Robert Hallam

But it was a choice for football. We wanted someone with ministerial experience, with a knowledge of football and a feeling for football, and someone who knew how far government could go. We also wanted someone with a platform, which David had with *Str-0-Sir* [the Radio Five Live phone-in].

"Love him or hate him, he does have a useful position in the game. And I've been very grateful for the enormous amount of work he has done without any remuneration but a lot of insults. When I look at the quality of the Task Force's reports, I think my choice has been vindicated. I am perfectly happy with it."

Like Mellor, Banks is more used to receiving brickbats than bouquets. In particular, he was slated, as was his boss Tony Blair, for interfering in the *Offshore Hoddie*. But there is a sense in which he is damned if he offers his opinion on sporting issues and damned if he

doesn't, and he is jolly pleased with me for pointing this out.

"You've put your finger on it," he says. "Actually, it was the *Independent* who first phoned me up on the Friday night to ask about Glenn Hoddie, and I tried to keep out of it. But by the next day there was such a controversy raging, and so all I said was that I thought his position was becoming untenable. You can interpret that as you will. At no point did I say he should resign. I know Glenn Hoddie pretty well. He is a decent guy. But he got out of his depth. And although he is fully entitled to his opinion, it was dangerous to talk about reincarnation when his source was not some learned religion but a faith-healer who was herself unable to explain what it was all about. I heard an interview in which she suggested that a child starving in Africa could have been Hitler in a previous life. That's a statement which, at the very least, can be grotesquely misinterpreted."

Ten minutes has passed and still the great controversialist has said nothing particularly controversial, even if some folk might quibble with the view that David Mellor is a boon to football. In an attempt to up the ante, I ask Banks to expand on a remark attributed to him to the effect that darts should become an Olympic sport.

"Don't laugh at me for saying it should be," he says, "tell me why it shouldn't be. I think it's perfectly reasonable. Darts is a very good sport and millions of people play it. Archery is a recognised Olympic sport, after all. And the definition of what is sport is highly subjective. I have fought to have chess recognised as a sport, and it is not a semantic point, because once it is recognised as a sport it can receive Sports Council money. Besides, sports go in and out of fashion. Not many people know that we are still the Olympic tug-of-war champions, having won gold medals in 1908

and 1912 or whatever. France, believe it or not, are still the Olympic champions at cricket. Well, it's no more ridiculous having darts in the Olympics than tug-of-war."

The idea of men shaped like Jocky Wilson and Leighton Rees trying to climb the Olympic podium – of a Sid Waddell murmuring "he's just three arrers away from Olympic gold, but first, a sip of lager" – is, I have to say, irresistible. Banks has won me over completely. But, even if I had wanted to take issue, it would not have been easy. For he talks about nearly everything with passion verging on vehemence, combined with a politician's unwavering self-belief.

"Without doubt, sport is one of the strongest motivating forces within a community, be it a village, a town, a city or a country," he continues. "Even if you are not necessarily interested in sport, you still feel the vibes of sporting success, for instance when England beat

South Africa at rugby. And we all saw the scenes when France won the World Cup. Here was a country not really addicted to football, and divided by racism, fielding the most ethnically mixed team imaginable and uniting the country in a way politicians could only dream about. I'm not suggesting that politicians use sport, although some have. I am suggesting that we put more resources in and give it a higher political priority. But sport needs a more effective lobby. If I have to do a deal with the devil, I will get an effective lobby."

Hang on. Who's this devil exactly? Tony Blair? Margaret Thatcher? Arsene Wenger ("I would rather die than go to Arsenal" – Tony Banks, *Hansard*, 5 May, 1994)? Disappointingly, Banks plays a straight bat. "The devil is inside you," he explains. "But there are other problems. Sport is so much bigger than it used to be, so enormous demands are being made of structures root-

ed in the 19th century. We gave many modern sports to the world, but we haven't moved on structurally. That's why there are problems with the administration of football, of rugby union, rugby league, snooker... I keep telling the governing bodies that they need to put far more pressure on government to win more resources. There aren't many government ministers who say: 'Put more pressure on me.'"

Indeed. Not even the detractors of Tony Banks would deny that he has a formidable appetite for his job, and is moved by a sincere desire to improve Britain's sporting institutions. Which is all well and good, but his fine intentions have not yet reduced the cost of watching Premiership football, for instance, which for many people remains all but prohibitive. Take his own beloved Chelsea. What does his season ticket cost?

"It costs £1,250," he says. "And it's going up to £1,400. Which I pay because I am hooked into it, and I like seeing stars playing for Chelsea, and I like the facilities at Stamford Bridge, but yes, my job is not to look after me but the nippers who would like to do what I did in 1954-55, and go to every single home match."

"Football has to be careful that it doesn't exclude its future fan base. I have asked the Task Force in its final report to address merchandising, ticket prices, strip prices, to see whether there is a coherent case for some sort of regulator who can intervene without disrupting the structure of football and protect the interests of the fans. Of course, it would be better for football to address these concerns itself. It has an opportunity to

'There are so many people in sport too busy fighting their own little turf wars to see the bigger picture'

regulate itself more effectively, but football is too significant for us to allow things to drift."

Moreover, Banks reckons that he has no time to allow things to drift. "What can be given with a phone call can be taken away. I haven't got the luxury of going slow, but I am constantly frustrated by the piecemeal, patchwork, divisive shape of sport in this country. People don't know how fragmented it is. There are five sports councils and four sports ministers. Actually, I believe in a dimension called Britain. It happens when we go to the Olympics. We might see ourselves as four countries, but in sporting terms, the world sees us as one."

At last, a whiff of controversy. It appears that Tony Banks, firm supporter of Scottish and Welsh devolution, craves a national football team containing Ryan Giggs as well as Alan Shearer, playing in Belfast and roared on by the Tartan Army. Yes? "All I'll say is that there is a coherent case to be made for a single team in a number of sports," he says, adding: "There are so many people in sport too busy fighting their own little turf wars to see the bigger picture. I can see the bigger picture and sometimes it desponds me and makes me feel very pessimistic. But then we win things and I realise that winning is all in sport." As it is, of course, in politics.

Chelsea wrong to retain Rix

Sir: Writing as a Chelsea supporter who desperately wants to see his club win as many trophies as possible, I find the club's attitude over Graham Rix's conviction totally incomprehensible. I can only wonder if Chelsea's more than generous stance towards the disgraced coach would be so understanding if the girl in question had been Mr Bates' 15-year-old daughter. I think not.

Parents of apprentices and junior players at Chelsea FC should be sleeping uncomfortably at the thought of a registered sex offender possibly coming into contact with their children once he has served his time.

Bill Shankly's adage about "life and death" and football would seem totally out of sync with today's moral code. In fact I should imagine he is turning in his grave at some of the current so-called heroes.

So, come on Chelsea, "play up" and do the decent thing. Admit

you made a mistake like your errant coach and put right the moral wrong you have committed to help football repair its tarnished image.

LUIS MELVILLE
Northolt,
Middlesex

Bad role model

Sir: The alacrity with which Chelsea FC reassured Graham Rix that his job would be waiting for him when he gets out of prison, after being convicted of having unlawful sex and indecent assault, was yet another depressing indication of the lack of any moral dimension in football's world view.

The game has become little more than a machine for making money. As part of this process, it promotes an aggressive and sexist model of "maleness",

characterised by petulant and foul-mouthed immaturity on the pitch and arrogant, sometimes violent, behaviour off it.

As ever-more obscene amounts of money pour into the pockets of the relatively small number of people at the top end of the game, so everything becomes excusable. The men who play the game, the golden geese, are always "the lads", and every appalling piece of behaviour, particularly towards women, is portrayed as high spirits or, at the worst, a peccadillo, forgivable after a few mumbled, shamefaced platitudes on television. After all, the crowds love it, so who cares?

We should not be surprised, however, if our young males, who are generally encouraged to have an unhealthy obsession with "the game" from the age of four or five upwards, do not just ape the violent and triumphalist

behaviour of their heroes, but adopt some of their more unattractive attitudes as well.

Now that it has become *de rigueur* for the middle classes to proclaim their footballing credentials at every opportunity and dress little Sam and Toby in their favourite club's garish strip, I'm afraid the prep schools of the land may be in for a good deal of unacceptable off-the-ball behaviour.

COLIN JORDAN
Chiswick,
London

Over the top

Sir: Casting a fleeting glance at this week's newspapers, people may have been confused into thinking that England had just won the football World Cup, not completed a 3-1 win over Poland, a team 16 places below them in

the world rankings. A better team than Poland would have exposed England's weak full-backs.

In October, after a goalless draw against Bulgaria, a team just three places below Poland in the Fifa rankings, the press called for Glenn Hoddie's head and supporters were left questioning if England would qualify. We should still question. Both Sweden and, it can be argued, Poland, are in better positions to qualify than England.

Are the press so naive that a victory ensures we are world beaters, and a loss relegates us to the sidelines?

For Keegan, if this is the pandemonium that surrounds a victory in the first of his four internationals, what will happen if he wins all four? Perhaps he is employing a similar fortune teller to Hoddie. The headlines following Hoddie's first match in

charge, a 3-0 victory away in Moldova, were similar to those Keegan is experiencing now.

GARY JACOB
St Catherine's College,
Oxford

Handled badly

Sir: The second goal scored by Paul Scholes in the Poland game was, quite clearly, handball and should not have been allowed, yet Kevin Keegan was reported to have said something along the lines of: "I don't care how he did it. I was just glad to see it go in."

No doubt this sentiment will be echoed by the red-tops and all other like-minded exponents of "the glorious game". Are these the same people who disparaged Mr Maradona's effort with such venom? No, surely not.

FJ HILL
Liverpool

Foreign bodies

Sir: In his excellent weekly rugby column, Alan Watkins has mentioned that England do not tend to use players from abroad. It is interesting to note that a quick check of the Planet Rugby England team details revealed the following:

a. Steve Ojomoh, Adedayo Adebayo and Victor Ubogu are all Nigerian.

b. Mike Cati is as South African as Dion O'Cuinnagain (Irish parents).

c. Kieran Bracken is Irish and has won an Under-14 medal with Leinster.

d. Kevin Yates is Canadian. It would be a useful exercise to compare the size of the rugby playing population in England to that of the other Home Unions and compare the number of foreigners used by the Scottish, the Irish and the Welsh.

Also, to my knowledge, France use Morocco in much the same way as New Zealand use Western Samoa. It's just that the talent pool is that much smaller.

VAL DAVEY
Address supplied

SPORTS LETTERS

Post letters to Sports Desk at 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. Faxes to 0171 293 2894 or e-mail to sports@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Swimming: Now over the troughs of the past, James Hickman strikes out for Sydney via Hong Kong

In the fast lane to Olympic gold

BY GUY HODGSON

THE FIRST thing you notice about James Hickman is his confidence. Not the sense-crushing bombast of Prince Naseem Hamed, who repels almost as readily as he attracts, but the easy calm of a man who knows.

Self-belief drips from him with the same regularity as the water he has dragged from the pool with his powerful frame. Which, considering we are talking about a British swimmer, a breed not known for travelling to major championships with anything more potent in their luggage than hope, confronts your assumptions. We are good losers handicapped by poor facilities, aren't we? Not Hickman.

"I want to win every 200m butterfly race between now and Sydney," the 23-year-old Mancunian said - an ample wish-list but one he has so far fulfilled. You have to go back to February 1998 since Hickman trailed in the slipstream of anyone, which, when you consider Britain's last swimming Olympic gold was won by Adrian Moorhouse 10 years ago, is an acute departure from recent precedent.

Hickman is good. He also knows it. He is No 1 in the world at the 100 metres and 200m butterfly and is in the top 10 in eight other disciplines, and you do not get ranks like that if you are cowed by others. He wants the impression of his winning to be burned in the minds of his rivals so he can arrive at next year's Olympics with his opponents half-beaten.

The World Short Course Championships, starting today in Hong Kong, where he defends his 200m title, is part of that image projection.

"I see it as a ladder," he said. "I want people to keep seeing me win. The more I do that the more people will expect me to be there, which will affect my rivals and make it easier for myself. The last time I went to the Olympics I was trying to win; next time I'll be going there to win - which is a totally different thing. I now know I have the ability."

At Atlanta, Hickman was a rare British success, setting national records in the 100m and 200m butterfly, and his curriculum vitae since has world, European and Commonwealth



James Hickman at Leeds International Pool. His coach, Terry Denison, worked with Adrian Moorhouse, Britain's last Olympic gold medal winner. Simon Wilkinson

golds highlighted within it. But if that suggests a graph with the line heading resolutely upwards, the impression is wrong. There have been troughs - and few deeper than the European Championships in Seville in 1997.

Hickman had arrived in Spain a strong favourite, but food poisoning debilitated and dehydrated him, so swimming was just about the last thing on his mind, and after withdrawing from the 200m he finished 14th in the shorter event.

"I'd just won the world short course and I think there was a little bit of anxiety," he admitted. "I wanted to stay there, to prove I deserved my gold medal - that it wasn't just a case of winning once and never again - so I trained too hard. I was ex-

tremely fit but sometimes athletes can be on the borderline of becoming ill. I picked up a virus that knocked me for six. I lost a stone in weight in four days. It was 46C most days, incredibly hot and humid, and I was in such a state."

"The 1998 World Championships were coming up," he said. "I was trying to concentrate on my swimming but a lot was going on in my head. My times

were down, I was rowing with my coach. It was a real low." In retrospect, his seemingly disappointing fifth place in the 200m at Perth can be seen with a rosier tint, but it did not change his own view that a split was inevitable.

"The work I did at Stockport was fantastic," he said, "and it's paying off now but it got to the point where I had to move on. "Dave and I had been working together a long time, since I was young, and we grew away from each other completely. I had grown up, it was

Hickman wanted to concentrate on long course and, after meeting several potential mentors, he chose Terry Denison at the City of Leeds.

"He's a fantastic coach," Hickman said. "He coached Adrian Moorhouse to the last swimming gold medal we had and he's very well respected. Leeds is pretty close to home and my parents in Manchester, it's a 50m pool, a hard-working programme like I'm used to at Stockport, it seemed ideal."

Hickman has moved to Bramley and it is hard to imagine a richer result because in the past year he has broken two world records, won three European titles and would have added his Commonwealth Games haul of a gold (200m butterfly) and two silvers (200

and 400 individual medleys) if he had not been disqualified controversially for a false start in the 100m butterfly.

The line on the graph, it can safely be said, is heading in the right direction again.

"It's worked well," he said. "What I have achieved gives me great confidence. To have a world record, to have swum faster than anyone else, proves you have the skill, so let's go and do it now."

Now means Hong Kong, but Sydney is not too far away - and how many other Britons will be going to the Olympics as a strong medal prospect?

Hickman will, and the next four days will help him and others whether gold will be the metal. The branding of minds begins.

Hickman has moved to Bramley and it is hard to imagine a richer result because in the past year he has broken two world records, won three European titles and would have added his Commonwealth Games haul of a gold (200m butterfly) and two silvers (200

Virenque faces doping charge

CYCLING
BY KIERAN DALY

RICHARD VIRENQUE, the four-time King of the Mountains in the Tour de France, has been charged by a magistrate with breaking France's anti-doping laws.

Patrick Kell, the magistrate in charge of the inquiry launched after the Festina team masseur Willy Voet was found with a bootload of drugs en route to the start of last year's Tour de France, informed Virenque by letter that he was being charged.

The 28-year-old lead cyclist in the Festina team last season is accused with knowingly using and administering doping products and complicity to import, hold, transfer, supply and acquire poisonous and prohibited substances. Virenque, who now rides for the Italian Polti team, has persistently denied ever taking banned substances, declaring that official tests that appeared to contradict him were false.

Voet, who was later dismissed by Festina, claimed Virenque took up to 100 injections of the banned drug EPO every year. He accused both Virenque and team-mate Pascal Hervé, who has also denied any drug-taking, of being liars and being the biggest consumers of doping products. EPO boosts the oxygen content in the blood and thus can boost endurance.

The investigators' report, compiled following blood tests, urine and hair tests, stated that: "The riders took EPO exogenously, meaning the hormone was given to them externally."

Doubts still remain as to whether all the riders were fully aware of what they were taking.

The four Spanish teams who staged a walk-out during last year's Tour de France - Banesto, ONCE, Vitalicio and Kelme - have returned to France this week for the Critérium International race.

It is the first time ONCE and Banesto have raced in France since the Tour de France last year, when police raided team hotels and an ONCE doctor was placed under investigation on doping charges.

England call up Kear as coach

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

JOHN KEAR, the Sheffield Eagles coach, is to take charge of England for two games against France this autumn.

Kear, ironically a former French national coach as well as an assistant with Great Britain, will steer the English side while the full Test team is in Australasia under Andy Goodway. The home nations are to compete separately in the World Cup in 2000 and England's games against France are seen as a crucial part of the preparation for the tournament.

David Howes and Damien McGrath, both of Leeds, are to be manager and assistant coach respectively. Kear, who guided Sheffield to the Challenge Cup last year, has already described himself as "flattered" to be on Leeds' short-list to replace Graham Murray as coach at the end of this season.

Ellery Hanley has introduced an alcohol ban on his St Helens players as they prepare for their Easter matches. The Saints coach, himself a teetotaler, has insisted the players stay dry until after the match at London on 4 April.

They were already restricted to only drinking immediately after matches, but the new rule is symptomatic of the tight

discipline with which Hanley intends to run his ship, although he stressed that there had been no drink problem since his arrival this winter.

"We have a very demanding Easter programme of three games in eight days and I believe that alcohol impairs your judgement," he said.

Saints' next game is on Good Friday at Wigan, whose coach, Johnnie, has followed his usual policy of naming his team early. Dwayne White, the son of the former Wigan coach, Graeme, is in line to make his debut from the bench.

Wigan have had several inquiries from potential sponsors and ground advertisers in the 24 hours since the announcement that Super League is to be shown on terrestrial TV for the first time, in a half-hour weekly programme on BBC2 which starts in May.

Salford have become the first rugby league club to win the Investors in People award. The government-backed scheme reassures the performance of companies in staff training and development.

Pearn strikes twice

HOCKEY

BY BILL COLWILL

MARK PEARN, Reading's 22-year-old striker, celebrated his 50th appearance for England with two goals in their 6-2 victory against South Africa in Buenos Aires yesterday.

After two draws against Argentina which promised more than they achieved, England were off to a good start against South Africa, quickly putting behind them the thoughts of their two defeats in Pretoria last year when the teams last met. Russell Garcia opened the scoring in the fourth minute with a flick at their first penalty corner.

With George Clover's shot taking a deflection past the goalkeeper and Pearn's first goal from a reverse stick shot,

England built up a useful 3-0 interval lead.

A rare Calum Giles goal in open play following good work by Danny Hall and a corner conversion by Giles extended England's lead to 5-0.

South Africa's two goals came from Surbiton players - Gregg Clark and Greg Nicol - who scored at one of the four penalty corners they were awarded, but despite this comeback in the closing minutes it was Pearn, with his second just two minutes from time, who confirmed England's supremacy.

With George Clover's shot taking a deflection past the goalkeeper and Pearn's first goal from a reverse stick shot,

CATTERICK

2.20 Guest Of Honour 2.50 San Michel
3.20 Once More For Luck 3.55 Jorrocks
4.25 Gunner Sam 5.00 Romero

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places).
STALLS: Inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best over 10 on soft ground.

Left-hand course, undulating and sharp.
Course is NW of town on A638. Direction station 14m - buses to course. ADMISSION: Club £12, Terraces £2, Course £2.50 (under 16s free all enclosures). CAR PARK: Reserved £2, rest free.

LEADING TRAINERS: J. Berry 27-44 (52%), B. Hills 10-42 (34%), M. W. Easterby 14-23 (14%), M. Johnson 10-75 (10%),
LEADING JOCKEYS: K. Dalton 25-50 (52%), J. Portman 17-17 (52%), J. Carroll 12-23 (13%), L. Crampton 12-14 (14%),
FAVOURITES: 17-42 (52%).
BLINKER FIRST TIME: Detroit City (winded, 250), Ryefield Star (250).

2.20 SPRINGTIME CLASSIFIED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 3YO 5F

1. 0394 ANNE APPLE (27) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3
2. 0040 GOSWORTHY (27) S. Williams 8.11. J. Portman 3
3. 0040 MARZONI (27) M. W. Easterby 8.11. S. Williams 3
4. 0034 OFF HIRE (27) D. C. Smith 8.11. J. Portman 3
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9. 0034 OFF HIRE (27) D. C. Smith 8.11. J. Portman 3
10. 0034 OFF HIRE (27) D. C. Smith 8.11. J. Portman 3

2.50 FORCET SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,500 added 7F

1. 0394 ALAMIN (27) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3
2. 0030 BATHMAN (27) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3
3. 0030 DETROIT CITY (27) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3
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9. 0030 DETROIT CITY (27) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3
10. 0030 DETROIT CITY (27) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3

3.20 WHORLTON HANDICAP (CLASS D) £3,500 added 1m 5f 17yds

1. 0394 ONCE MORE FOR LUCK (27) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3
2. 0030 TUNING (27) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3
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10. 0030 TUNING (27) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3

3.55 GODS SOLUTION HANDICAP (CLASS D) £2,500 added 7F

1. 0000 ROYAL MARK (18) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3
2. 0000 JORROCKS (18) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3
3. 0000 JORROCKS (18) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3
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10. 0000 JORROCKS (18) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3

4.25 TOYTOP MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 added 6F

1. 0040 DAZZLING STONE (27) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3
2. 0040 DAZZLING STONE (27) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3
3. 0040 DAZZLING STONE (27) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3
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9. 0040 DAZZLING STONE (27) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3
10. 0040 DAZZLING STONE (27) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3

5.00 YARM HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,500 added 3YO 1m 4f

1. 0030 FLY LIKE A BIRD (27) S. Williams 8.11. Alex Groves 3
2. 0030 ROMERO (27) S. Williams 8.11. Alex Groves 3
3. 0030 ROMERO (27) S. Williams 8.11. Alex Groves 3
4. 0030 ROMERO (27) S. Williams 8.11. Alex Groves 3
5. 0030 ROMERO (27) S. Williams 8.11. Alex Groves 3
6. 0030 ROMERO (27) S. Williams 8.11. Alex Groves 3
7. 0030 ROMERO (27) S. Williams 8.11. Alex Groves 3
8. 0030 ROMERO (27) S. Williams 8.11. Alex Groves 3
9. 0030 ROMERO (27) S. Williams 8.11. Alex Groves 3
10. 0030 ROMERO (27) S. Williams 8.11. Alex Groves 3

FORM VERDICT

Not that competitive a race, with doubts over a handful of the field, some lacking a recent run. ONCE MORE FOR LUCK has a touch of class at this level, and although he may be the Riveley second string, he makes as much appeal as any. Sheldrake, who's been out of the picture since the Great Flood is worth noting in the market.

3.55 GODS SOLUTION HANDICAP (CLASS D) £2,500 added 7F

1. 0000 ROYAL MARK (18) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3
2. 0000 JORROCKS (18) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3
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4.25 TOYTOP MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 added 6F

1. 0040 DAZZLING STONE (27) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3
2. 0040 DAZZLING STONE (27) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3
3. 0040 DAZZLING STONE (27) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3
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5.00 YARM HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,500 added 3YO 1m 4f

1. 0030 FLY LIKE A BIRD (27) S. Williams 8.11. Alex Groves 3
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10. 0030 ROMERO (27) S. Williams 8.11. Alex Groves 3

FORM VERDICT

ONCE MORE FOR LUCK is the clear pick on juvenile form and though much can happen in the close-season break, none of the lightly raced rivals showed anything like enough last season to merit close consideration. Basically, if Gunner Sam runs to his juvenile form, he will be hard to beat.

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FOLKESTONE

2.00 First Blood 2.30 Ivory's Joy 3.00 Tiger
3.30 Allj Dancer 4.05 Diplomat 4.40
Lennax 5.15 Plat

GOING: Soft.
STALLS: Straight course - stands side; round course - outside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best 95, 92, 81, 71, 61, 51, 41, 31, 21, 11.

Left-hand course, undulating and sharp.
Course is NW of town on A638. Direction station 14m - buses to course. ADMISSION: Club £12, Terraces £2, Course £2.50 (under 16s free all enclosures). CAR PARK: Reserved £2, rest free.

LEADING TRAINERS: J. Berry 27-44 (52%), B. Hills 10-42 (34%), M. W. Easterby 14-23 (14%), M. Johnson 10-75 (10%),
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FAVOURITES: 17-42 (52%).
BLINKER FIRST TIME: Detroit City (winded, 250), Ryefield Star (250).

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10. 0030 DETROIT CITY (27) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3

3.20 WHORLTON HANDICAP (CLASS D) £3,500 added 1m 5f 17yds

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10. 0030 TUNING (27) D. Nichols 8.11. Alex Groves 3

3.55 GODS SOLUTION HANDICAP (CLASS D) £2,500 added 7F

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Return of the wizard for Scotland

Allan Johnston is set to help his country back to the good old days against the Czechs tonight. By Phil Shaw

SMALL, WELL balanced, with a low centre of gravity, quick feet and an innate impudence which meant he delighted in turning defenders dizzy before fighting his cross, the winger was once as integral to Scottish football culture as the tartan tamale, the half-time pie and the Old Firm being kept apart in semi-final draws.

From Charlie Cooke and Jimmy Johnstone through John Robertson and Davie Cooper to Gordon Strachan and Pat Nevin, touchline trickery was a major weapon in the national team's armoury. Then the era of wing-backs and wide midfielders kicked in. The specialist winger first became a luxury, then an endangered species.

Just when the triumph of functionalism over flair on Scotland's flanks appeared complete, Allan Johnston inked into view at Sunderland. The 25-year-old with the classic winger's frame - he stands 5ft 7in and 160lb - added a "new" dimension to the attack when introduced against Estonia and the Faroe Islands last autumn.

Johnston's impact was such that he looks certain to be asked to induct himself round the back of the Czech Republic's defence when the quest to qualify for Euro 2000 resumes tonight. Since Craig Brown's squad contains another winger in Rangers' Neil McCann, there is the nostalgic prospect of the Scots using the full width of Celtic Park as they strive to enhance a modest scoring record against the Group Nine favourites and Euro 96 finalists.

A Glaswegian, Johnston might have felt more at home at Ibrox had Saturday's match with Bosnia not been post-

poned. He grew up following Rangers (when he was not watching his brother, Sammy, who played for St Johnstone and is now assistant manager of Partick Thistle). On his last appearance there, with Heart of Midlothian early in 1996, he achieved the considerable feat of putting a hat-trick past Andy Goram.

Peter Reid was present that day and kept tabs on him the following season, which Johnston spent with Rennes in France following one of the first "Bosman" transfers involving a Scot. When, after a year of fluctuating fortunes, he decided to return to Britain, the Sunderland manager landed him for a bargain £500,000.

At Hearts, Johnston was nicknamed "Sticky"; some say it was because there was nothing of him, like a stick insect, others that it came from his adhesive touch on the ball. At Sunderland, where he has forged a strong link with the left-back Michael Gray, the fans have dubbed him "Magic". The moniker may lack originality but seems appropriate given his capacity to conjure a cross when apparently boxed in by opponents.

Reid felt it was a quality of which Scotland should avail themselves and phoned Brown, urging him not to forget his player. The Scotland manager was aware of his capabilities, Johnston having been one of several Hearts players who made the Under-21 side, though he was sufficiently impressed by a first-hand appraisal to pick him for the senior pool.

"Allan did very well for us in his first two games," said Brown. "He plays on the left for his club, but we're well served

there with the likes of Neil McCann, Callum Davidson and Stephen Glass, so we used him on the right. The pleasing thing is that he's good with both feet and happy to play either side.

"He doesn't go past people with pace - he's not going to embarrass a full-back for speed like Willie Henderson used to - but he uses his skill to create space in front of defenders and makes a very good angle to cross the ball. It's no coincidence that Niall Quinn is getting so many goals for Sunderland this season. We haven't got any big strikers like that, but we do have guys who support well from midfield and get goals, such as Craig Burley.

"Allan's ability to cross from tight positions reminds me of players like Charlie Cooke and Eddie Gray. He's something of a throwback in that respect. He has terrific skill and can beat a man with clever footwork, and he's also got a nice step-over trick, excellent delivery and a good game awareness, which is vital at international level."

Scotland have grown accustomed to visiting sides, from the makeweights like the Faroe to teams from the other end of FIFA's world rankings, missing behind the ball and then countering quickly. "They defy you to break them down," Brown explained. "So you need somebody like Johnston or McCann, or possibly both, to get in behind them."

Brown cites the Netherlands as an example of a country who favour out-and-out wingers. Yet he fears they are a dying breed, despite the emergence of Johnston, McCann and Glass (absent injured at Newcastle).

"With 4-4-2, the wide men tend to cancel one another out and



Sunderland's winger Allan Johnston, in training with Scotland, has added a new dimension to the attack of both club and country. Allsport

stop each other going forward. Players just don't get to the by-line like they used to.

"Club managers can buy wingers, like Rangers did with McCann and Andrei Kanchelskis and Celtic did with Jackie McNamara and Regi Blinker, but I can't do that. Even in England, there are very few on the go now."

He speaks from experience,

having made regular cross-border incursions to check on players (his most recent visit, for his sins, Brown was to Queen's Park Rangers versus Swindon). A recent trip to Sunderland, whom he saw close in on the Premiership by beating Norwich, satisfied him that Johnston's magic is in good working order. "He played very well, and I gather he scored two

cracking goals against Bolton the other week."

"I see players like Johnston, McCann, Glass, Davidson, Barry Ferguson, Mark Burchill, Christian Dailly and maybe Paul Ritchie as the nucleus of our future team. If we can just get past this transitional period without failing to qualify, I'm sure there's a really good side in the making, with wingers to boot."

Brown's plans kept in check

IN THE most searching examination so far of Craig Brown's legendary powers of improvisation, Scotland will tonight attempt to extend their 12-year unbeaten home record in competitive fixtures without a single recognised striker when they receive the Czech Republic in a potentially decisive European Championship qualifier at Celtic Park.

The Scotland manager, intent on keeping his Czech counterpart guessing, will not announce his line-up for the game against the Group Nine leaders and 1996 finalists until the last possible moment. But a glance at the list from which he will choose would leave Jozef Chovanec in no doubt as to the makeshift nature of the Scottish attack.

Gary McAllister, who will captain Scotland on his first appearance since sustaining the knee injury which kept out of last summer's World Cup finals, summed up Brown's lack of even one obvious marksman when he noted that he is the top scorer among the 20-man squad. His 56 caps have produced a grand total of five goals - including two from penalties and two against what he self-mockingly called "the mighty Canadians".

Eoin Jess, a midfielder for much of his career, will be pressed into service as a forward, having at least played there for Aberdeen lately. Should Brown revert to his trusted 3-5-2 formation, rather than the riskier 3-4-3 which earned narrow home wins over Estonia and the Faroe Islands, Jess's probable partner is Rangers' Neil McCann, nominally a winger with a strong hint that another flank specialist, Sunderland's Allan Johnston, will be summoned from the bench at some stage.

By comparison with the front and back units, from which such familiar figures as Durie, Gallacher, Dailly and Hendry are missing, the Scots are spoiled for choice in midfield. Yet McAllister played down the theory that the match would be won or lost there. "I'm confident it'll be decided by our strikers, but there are goals in this squad anyway," he said, going on to identify Craig Burley and centre-backs marauding at set-pieces as alternative sources.

Given that their opponents stand some 20 places above them at seventh in the world rankings published by FIFA, the game's global governing body, it would not surprise many observers if this were to prove to be a game too far for Brown's make-do-or-die philosophy. Yet Scotland have not lost a qualifying fixture on home soil since Mark Lawrenson's goal settled a 1987 match in the Republic of Ireland's favour, and there is a steady determination to keep the run going.

"It's a game we have to win," McAllister said, mindful that the Czechs would go eight points clear by winning. "Though a draw wouldn't be a disaster, it would make it very difficult because we'd have to win in Prague. Some of their players are household names because

BY PHIL SHAW
in Glasgow

of Euro 96 but, while we respect them, we're not in awe of them." McAllister added: "We've got to start fast. A slow pace would suit them better than us, so we need to try to play at a British tempo, like we did when we beat Austria at Celtic Park in the World Cup, though we also played some nice stuff that night."

Karel Poborsky, the Czechs' former Manchester United winger, expressed a similar view on arriving at Glasgow airport. "If we get a good start and keep it tight, Scotland might get nervous. All the pressure's on them because they're at home and they're five points behind us."

Poborsky's failure to establish himself at Old Trafford, like Patrick Berger's status as a "bit-part player" at Liverpool, was cited by McAllister as evidence that victory is not beyond Scotland's capabilities.

Indeed, when looked at from a different perspective, the Czechs appear far from invincible. They failed to qualify for France 98, surrendered tamely to England in an autumn friendly at Wembley, and needed an "unsporting" Arsenal-style goal to scrape through in the Faroes. They will also be

GROUP NINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Czech Rep	4	4	0	0	10	2	12
Scotland	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
Lithuania	2	1	1	1	4	5	4
Estonia	1	1	1	2	5	8	4
Bosnia	4	1	2	2	9	8	4
Faroe Islands	1	0	1	4	1	9	1

Fixtures: Today Lithuania v Estonia; Scotland v Czech Republic; 5 June: Bosnia v Lithuania; Estonia v Czech Republic; Faroe Islands v Scotland; 9 June: Estonia v Lithuania; Faroe Islands v Bosnia; Czech Republic v Scotland; 18 Aug: Bosnia v Scotland; 19 Aug: Czech Republic v Bosnia; Faroe Islands v Lithuania; Estonia v Scotland; 9 Oct: Estonia v Bosnia; Czech Republic v Faroe Islands; Scotland v Lithuania.

without a key defender, the suspended Tomas Repka, although that still leaves with Scots fewer than half the aggregate number of caps collected by their visitors.

Brown, who watched Chovanec's team labour to a 2-0 home win over Lithuania on Saturday, would dearly like to know whether the first-choice striker, Vladimir Smicer, will be partnered by the nipper Pavel Kuka or the taller Vratislav Lokvenec. In the absence of such intelligence, he has plans for either contingency and has even rehearsed two different playing systems. If Scotland's proud record is taken, it will not be for want of meticulous preparation.

■ Uefa, football's European governing body, says it will be forced to expel from the European Championship any country subjected to a UN embargo. "Our actions depend on the political situation which is beyond our control," a spokesman said.

Dowie aiming for record goal

BY DAVID ANDERSON
in Chisinau

The Moldovans have selection problems, with the defenders Ivan Tabanov and Oleg Shishkin suspended, while Ion Tisteanu is injured.

Northampton (3-5-2, probable): Taylor (Fullback); Rowland (Queen's Park Rangers), Potters (Dundee United), Morrow (Aston Villa), Williams (Sheff Wed), Somers (Sheff Wed), Lennon (Leicester), Lomas (West Ham), Gillespie (Blackburn), McHughes (Wimbledon), Dowie (Queen's Park Rangers).

Dowie took his tally to 12, level with four others, when he scored against Moldova at Windsor Park in November's 2-2 draw. "It would mean a lot to me to equal the record because I love playing for Northern Ireland," the 34-year-old said. "But I would swap it for a place in the European Championship finals."

Keith Gillespie should start, even though he is not fully fit, and Michael Hughes will play his penultimate match before a hernia operation. Danny Somers may make his first start in midfield, with Keith Rowland moving to left-back.

GROUP THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	4	3	0	1	6	2	9
Turkey	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
N Ireland	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
Moldova	3	0	1	2	3	8	1

Fixtures: Today Germany v Finland; Moldova v Northern Ireland; 4 June: Germany v Moldova; 5 June: Finland v Turkey; 8 June: Moldova v Finland; 4 Sept: Finland v Germany; Northern Ireland v Turkey; 8 Sept: Germany v Northern Ireland; Moldova v Turkey; 3 Oct: Germany v Turkey; Finland v Northern Ireland.

Wales winning over sceptics

THE PENALTY for prolonged disappointment was spelt out in the men's magazine *Mozzin* last week when it revealed that half of Welsh football fans would prefer a Great Britain team to supporting the national team. Nowhere better has the effect been quantified of failing to reach major finals.

It is more than 40 years since Wales last went head to head with the world's, or even Europe's, best, which has eroded national allegiance to the point where 50 per cent would rather get behind Tony Adams and co (with Ryan Giggs as the sole Welsh representative) than endure much more of the present.

Compare that to the Scots, who were most opposed with 74.4 per cent against Northern Ireland (66.7) and England (65.6) and, even given the vagaries of poll results, you get an idea how important a good result is in tonight's European Championship Group One qualifier against Switzerland.

Do well in Zurich - and a draw is the minimum requirement - and principality patriotism will prosper; do badly and the temptation to find another outlet for international pride

BY GUY HODGSON

will increase. A pressure-free match for Bobby Gould and his players tonight, then?

Actually, the Wales manager has looked anything but worried this last week because he has survived far worse. Six months ago Gould's job prospects looked less than promising when even the Manic Street Preachers were interrupting

GROUP ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	3	3	0	0	6	1	9
Wales	3	2	0	1	3	5	6
Switzerland	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
Denmark	4	0	2	2	3	5	2
Belarus	3	0	1	2	2	4	1

Fixtures: Today Switzerland v Wales; Italy v Belarus; 5 June: Italy v Wales; Denmark v Belarus; 9 June: Switzerland v Italy; Wales v Denmark; 8 Sept: Switzerland v Belarus; 9 Oct: Italy v Wales; 3 Oct: Wales v Switzerland; Belarus v Italy.

pressure that comes from creating a situation of greatest expectation. "I recall Graham Henry (Wales' rugby union coach) was in a similar situation after two bad results this season against Ireland and Scotland. People were getting on at him, but then Wales go to Paris and produce a wonderful performance and a wonderful victory. The emotion that was shown on and off the field was fantastic."

Gould's squad is at its most harmonious since he took over three years ago, although it has not always been that way thanks to public wrangles with John Hartson, Gary Speed, Robbie Savage and Ian Rush.

That has been brushed aside by success since as Hartson, back in the fold after nine months' absence, confirmed. "The players look forward to joining up with the squad," he said, "and, no disrespect to anyone, it wasn't always like that. Results change things. If you're getting stuffed the manager comes in and wants to know what's going wrong, what are we doing wrong? If you win games you don't have meetings like that. The lads here have had

days off, played golf and everything is going well. Everybody is flying."

Everyone, that is, except Giggs, who is Wales' only world-class player and who misses tonight's match with a hamstring injury incurred playing for Manchester United in the European Cup. His absence against the Swiss, who beat Belarus on Saturday, could be hurtful although, in Wales' favour, their last two wins were without him.

Even so, when Gould followed an item on cloning on Radio Four's *Today* yesterday, he could not resist asking for a Giggs clone as the perfect present, underlining how important is his pace and the fear he instils in the opposition.

But, as Gould said yesterday, you can only work with what you have got and the biggest weapon at his disposal is renewed confidence. "We have won two games back to back," he said, "the squad have been away, looked at the group table and come back for this game in a very positive mood believing they can really achieve something."

Now if he can only convince the Welsh public,

Q: What's important about April 6th?

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JP 11/20/95



SPORT



RETURN OF THE WINGER P22 • TONY BANKS TALKS TO BRIAN VINER P19

Atherton pulls out of World Cup



Atherton: Back problem

ENGLAND SUFFERED their first World Cup casualty yesterday when Michael Atherton withdrew from the 15-man squad following the recurrence of a long-standing back injury. His future as a reliable opener at Test level must now be seriously in doubt, compromised as it is by an increasingly unreliable back.

The Lancashire opener will fly home from Pakistan, where England are preparing for a one-day tournament in Sharjah. He will consult further expert opinion and undergo treatment, a process that could sideline him for several months.

"To be honest, declaring myself unfit is a weight off my mind," Atherton said last night,

CRICKET

BY DEREK PRINGLE

speaking from his hotel in Lahore. "I'm disappointed because I really worked hard in Cape Town, where I've been playing with Lancashire, and I felt I'd achieved full mobility."

"But two long air flights, which have made my back stiffen up again, have shown me that it's not properly right. In light of that, and the fact that I've had enough of trying to play when not 100 per cent fit, I had no choice but to pull out. I now want to have a period of rehab to get my body properly right, which I am confident I can do."

Lengthy air journeys - his two trips took the best part of 35 hours - were not the only factors at play. Atherton felt that the need to prove his fitness, although understandable from the selectors' point of view, was rushed.

"After the denervation I had a month ago [a procedure whereby the nerve sending pain from his back is killed off] I felt a more gradual build-up, rather than the mad two days of running around at Lillleshall that I did, would have been better. I have no gripe, though - the selectors and the captain needed to know."

Atherton was one of four World Cup players specifically

required to prove their fitness in Lahore and Sharjah and the selectors will have already earmarked potential replacements for the former captain, whose selection was largely down to his skill as a technician on green pitches.

Presuming England will replace like with like, then the role will probably fall to Nasser Hussain or Mark Ramprakash, though the Leicestershire pair of Darren Maddy and Ben Smith will also be considered. Either way, the selectors must decide by today, the deadline by which 15-man World Cup squads must be named.

Selecting Atherton for duty has become something of an act

of faith over recent months, with neither player nor physio able to guarantee fitness for more than a few hours. In fact, over the last eight months his back has forced him to pull out of Tests three times, sometimes on the morning of the match. Such uncertainty can affect both tactics and morale, particularly within the confines of a 15-man squad, where replacements are strictly vetted.

Given the nature of his problems - a chronic inflammation of the vertebrae has recently been exacerbated by a disc problem - it is something of a minor miracle he has played so often. Before his withdrawal from the Test against Sri Lanka

last August, he had managed 62 Tests appearances on the trot, most of them as captain.

This time he did not even make it to the nets in Lahore, where England are acclimatising for the Coca-Cola Cup in Sharjah.

"Michael let me know soon after he woke up," revealed the chairman of selectors, David Graveney, who is also managing England's trip to Lahore and Sharjah.

"Michael knew he was back to square one," admitted Graveney, "so he didn't try to hide or conceal it. We appreciate his honesty, but we're very disappointed for him because we know what he's been trying

to do over the past two months to get fit. He could perhaps have tried to get through the next few weeks, but by making a bold decision now, he's again shown that he's a team man."

Graveney was less forgiving over what Atherton, now 31 and with a possible four to five years more Test cricket in him, would have to do to gain selection in future. "We as selectors need him to prove to us over a lengthy period of time that he is injury-free, and that would mean playing on a regular basis for Lancashire," he said.

Atherton's iron will may just ensure that the recuperation period, however long, is not a futile one.

Lara's century defies Australia

BRIAN LARA set up a thrilling finale in the third Test yesterday as West Indies fought back from what seemed a hopeless situation.

The West Indies captain was unbeaten on 112 as his team reached tea 54 short of their target of 308, but with only two wickets standing. They had looked well-placed at 238 for five, only for Glenn McGrath to claim three quick wickets to turn what has been a superb match back in Australia's favour.

The pace bowler, who claimed four wickets in the first innings, ended the 133-run sixth-wicket partnership between Lara and Jimmy Adams by clean bowling Adams for 36. Minutes later he trapped Ridley Jacobs, who scored 68 in the first innings, lbw for five, and got Nehemiah Perry first ball, also lbw, to take his match haul to nine.

Lara and Adams, who put on a record fifth-wicket partnership of 322 in the second Test, came together nine overs into the final day with their team in deep trouble at 105 for five. But after an early steady action, Lara cut loose, particularly after lunch. He brought up his 50 with a huge six over mid-wicket off Shane Warne and reached his century with an on-driven four off the same bowler.

In between those two land-

marks, the Kensington Oval crowd was treated to a nerve-tangling new-ball battle between Lara and pace-monger McGrath and Jason Gillespie.

Australia 490 & 146
West Indies 329 & 254-8

As McGrath and Gillespie tired, the West Indies captain, who scored 213 to win the second Test virtually single-handedly, went for his shots.

But McGrath showed just why he is rated by many as the world's best bowler by turning the tables again. After the bowler had claimed the sixth lbw decision of the innings, Curtly Ambrose survived the hat-trick ball and then two more overs without scoring but West Indies' hopes now depend on their skipper.

Only three times in 350 Tests have West Indies scored more than 300 to win a Test. They scored 348 for five against New Zealand in Auckland during 1968-69, 344 for one against England at Lord's in

1984 and 317 for two against Pakistan in Georgetown during 1957-58.

Final day: Australia won loss
AUSTRALIA - First innings 490 (S R Waugh 139, R T Ponting 109),
WEST INDIES - First innings 329 (S L Campbell 105, R D Jacobs 68, G D McGrath 4-120).

AUSTRALIA - Second innings 146 (C A Walsh 5-39).

WEST INDIES - Second innings (Overnight: 85 for 3)

A F G Griffith lbw b Gillespie 35
B C Lara not out 112
C L Hooper c Healy b Gillespie 6
J C Adams b McGrath 36
R D Jacobs lbw b McGrath 5
N O Perry lbw b McGrath 5
C E L Ambrose not out 0
Extras (GB 11, W 1, LB 4) 24
Total (for 4, 105 overs) 254
Fall (cont.): 4-91 5-105 6-238 7-248 8-248.

To beat: C A Walsh.
Bowling: McGrath 38-12-69-5; Gillespie 32-8-49-2 (nb); Warne 20-4-53-0 (nb); Macmillan 20-4-55-1; S R Waugh 5-0-19-0 (w).
Umpires: E A Nicholson (W) and D L Orchard (S).

■ Rain forced the abandonment of the sixth and final one day international between New Zealand and South Africa at Wellington's Basin Reserve yesterday, although the home side can still square the series if the match can be replayed today.

Contributions from the top five South African batsmen helped the tourists to a score of 249 for 4 in 48.4 overs before rain brought the innings to a premature close and then prevented any further play. Gary Kirsten and Herschelle Gibbs appeared to put the tourists on course for 300 after reaching 84 before Gibbs edged Dion Nash to wicket-keeper Adam Parore.



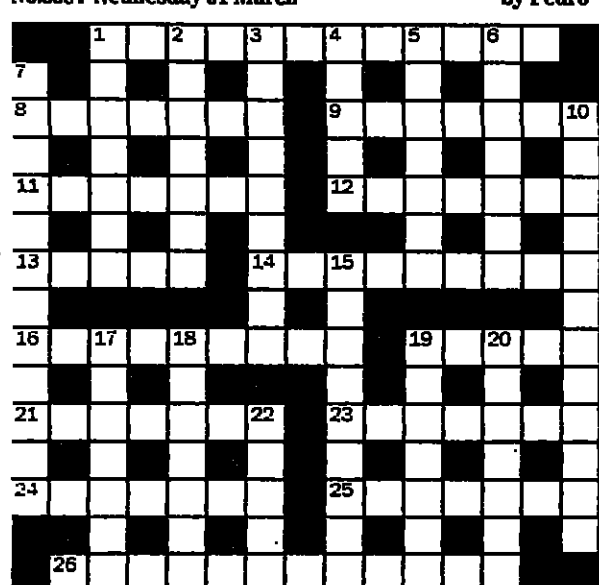
The West Indies captain, Brian Lara, hits a boundary in his side's run chase against Australia in Barbados yesterday

Reuters

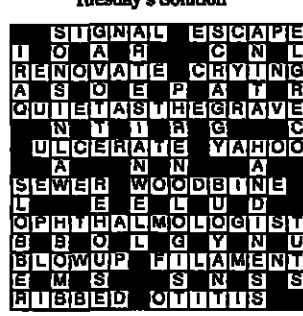
THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD

No.3384 Wednesday 31 March

by Pedro



Tuesday's Solution



- ACROSS
- Deputy's another cheat (6,6)
 - See bird go round side of building (7)
 - Chap putting book in waste receptacle (7)
 - Phones teacher in front of class (7)
 - One's expected to be aware of this conversational filler (3,4)
 - Facial hair given new common hair colour (5)
 - A sporting Frenchman? That's applied to no French leader of old (9)
 - Very seductive female secretary with flowing hair (9)
 - What cyclists do - ring bells when going round end of road (5)

- Resort in US or some country with nothing extra needed (7)
- Info associated with glowing ring element (7)
- Thinking of great cost in dumping former partner (7)
- With which one bears the bath outlet, not piano (7)
- Upset ends with yearlong meeting of ministers et al. (7,5)

DOWN

- Musical work flowed, carried by very good singer (7)
- Red lips to be involved in study (7)
- Bargain? I get a note in change (9)
- Inconsistent France

- ousting Portugal in angry display (5)
- Second position adopted in long argument (7)
- Middle Eastern country held up Christmas, introducing prohibition (7)
- Course where one encounters a group of characters (8,3)
- Some American seeming to be from Greenland? (3,9)
- Ancient writer says hard clue needs rewriting (9)
- The writer penning English language melody (7)
- Annuity scheme giving money in style (7)
- Figure college's almost destroyed (7)
- Tree to be of benefit around capital of Wales (7)
- More than half of event in theatre is a music-drama (5)

FA close to Keegan solution

FOOTBALL

BY GLENN MOORE

KEVIN KEEGAN returned to London this morning from a family break in the north-east with one match on his mind - Fulham's Easter Monday visit to Reading in the Nationwide League Second Division.

At Lancaster Gate, however, the Football Association was looking further ahead, to September, and England's final Euro 2000 qualifying matches against Luxembourg and Poland.

England's 3-0 victory over Poland on Saturday, while delighting the FA, has increased its dependence on Fulham's chief operating officer to the extent that it is considering the possibility of allowing him to manage the side part-time through to the autumn.

The FA recognises that, should Keegan lead the team to success in the June qualifying matches against Sweden and Bulgaria, it would be a public relations disaster, and probably a footballing error, to then disperse with him if he refused to go full-time.

Noel White, the chairman of the International Committee, the group charged with finding Glenn Hoddle's successor, told *The Independent*: "If we are within a cat's whiskers of qualifying by then it might be possible for Kevin to continue with England on the same basis - unless he's changed his mind and wants to have a go full-time."

That remains the FA's preferred option and it was given succour by the announcement by Mohammed Al Fayed, Fulham's owner, that he would be prepared to release Keegan

with Keegan. In his favour is his ability to delegate, to Frank Shipley at Fulham, and to Arthur Cox, Derek Fazackerly and Howard Wilkinson with England.

Against him is the danger that England could come second, rather than first in the group, and have to endure a home-and-away play-off in November.

Given England's poor start, the FA would probably settle for

that and allow Keegan to continue for another couple of months. But what then?

If England qualify the current view within the FA is that it would be impossible for Keegan to combine coaching Fulham, who could be involved in promotion play-offs up until late May, and also prepare England for a major championship. However, it also feels that, should England qualify, it would be self-evident that the arrangement is working.

The result is a wait-and-see policy although clarification - and maybe Keegan agreeing to take the job full-time - could come once Fulham have secured promotion from the Second Division.

One England coach will be leaving in June. Peter Taylor, the Under-21 coach, yesterday revealed that he will be replaced. Taylor, who was appointed by Hoddle, probably expected it, though his reign has been largely successful. Taylor, who has 15 months to

run on his contract, claimed he was told he did not fit into Wilkinson's long-term plans. Wilkinson then issued a statement claiming Taylor had been offered a new role in the Football Association's technical department with "new responsibilities".

The statement added that these responsibilities were to include "coach education and involvement with international teams which could have included the England Under-21 team".

Taylor was clearly not prepared to put up with what he saw as a diluting of his position after having the power to select the side under Hoddle. He is likely to be replaced by David Platt in the short-term, working alongside Wilkinson initially before assuming full control. To judge from his comments yesterday, this aspect will not please Taylor.

He said: "I've got the utmost respect for Howard Wilkinson. He has a tremendous knowledge of the game and if he takes over the Under-21s I can understand that. But I can only be honest and if someone with lesser experience than myself takes over then I would be even more disappointed that I wasn't the choice."

Platt has already worked under Wilkinson in the England Under-18 set-up and his involvement is part of a long-term strategy to groom international coaches which, the FA hopes, will prevent the England team having to share a club manager ever again.

Leicester inquiry, page 23



Keegan: 'Right man'

Poland 'must win' Sweden game

BY TOMMY STANFORTH

ENGLISH EYES will be looking towards Chorzow tonight where Poland, their victims at Wembley last Saturday, must beat Sweden or abandon hope of winning automatic qualification for Euro 2000 from Group Five.

Sweden have a perfect haul of nine points from three games, with the Poles on six. If Sweden win they will go six points clear of England, having

played the same number of games.

Yesterday Poland's coach, Janusz Wojcik, said: "We are playing at home and we must win." The defeat against England was their first loss in 10 games under Wojcik, who took over as coach last year.

Poland will be without the defender Tomasz Hajto, who

earned his second yellow card of the group at Wembley, and the striker Sylwester Czeszowski.

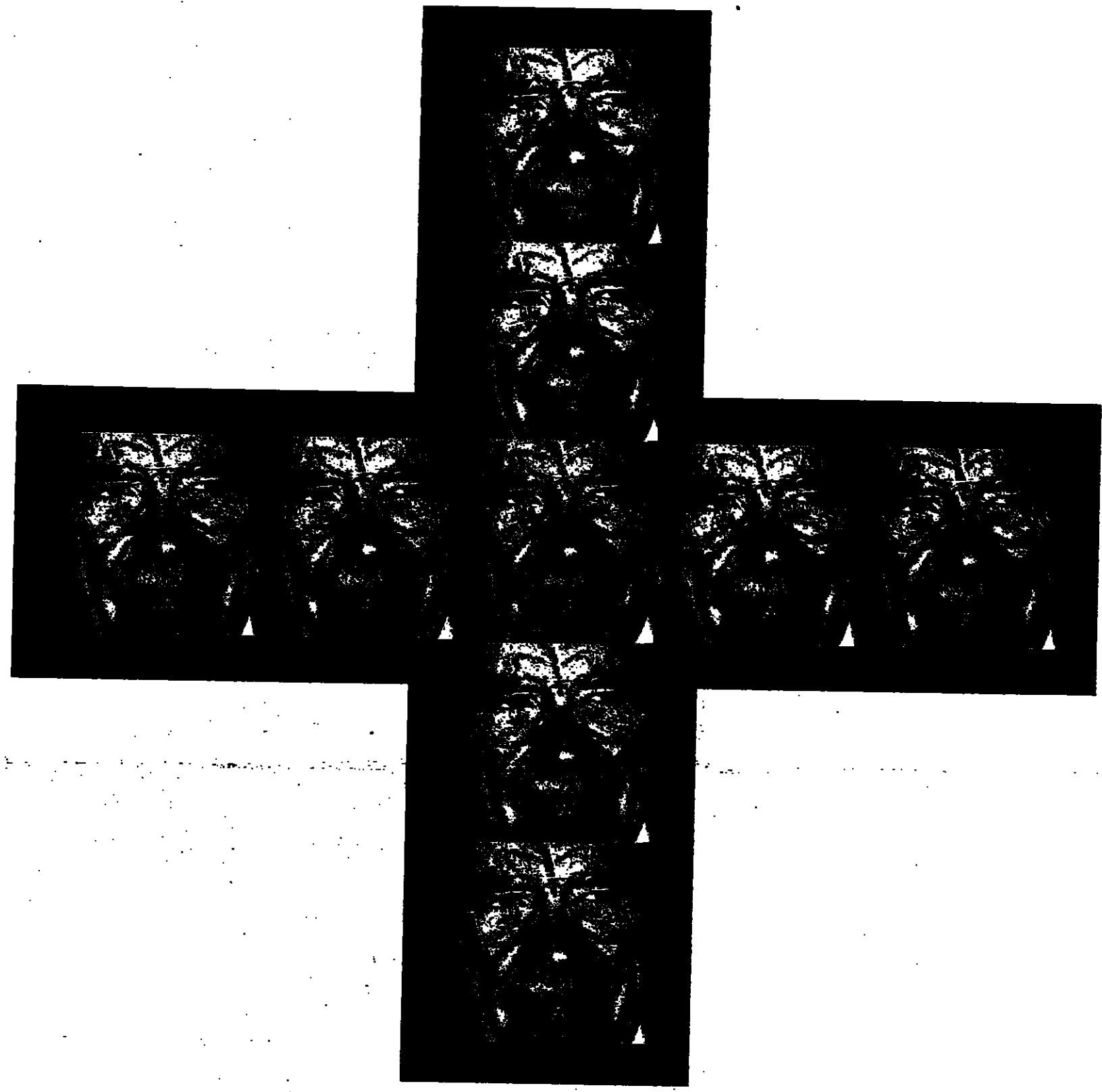
Tommy Soderberg, Sweden's coach, is likely to play the same team that beat Luxembourg 2-0 on Saturday and is expecting Poland to attack from the start. "I am sure Poland will make it an onslaught," he said. "They want to show that the loss against England last week was an accident."

JP 11/10/50

BUSINESS REVIEW

DANGEROUS EQUATIONS

HOW RUPERT MURDOCH + CANAL PLUS ARE BATTLING TO DIVIDE UP EUROPE'S TV



Inside: Is Tomkins a fashion victim or fatally flawed? Page 5

Who's funding the Internet frenzy? Page 4

Revealed: the biggest noise in the music biz. Page 6

Plus: Hamish McRae, Diane Coyle,
Derek Pain, Jonathan Davis and The Trader

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THE BUSINESS WORLD

Why we're all bitten by this bug, like it or not

FIRST it was just the odd down-page story. Then it started to become a regular news item. Now hardly a day passes without some reference, usually in the form of a dire warning. Gradually the threat to the world economy posed by the millennium bug has risen up the news agenda. Expect it to rise further in the coming months – indeed by the time the millennium arrives it will be quite a relief to know that soon, whatever the outcome, the story itself will pass into history.

The fact that many computer programs will be unable to recognise the year 2000 and think it is 1900 has been a profound worry for anyone involved in the IT world for the last three or four years. But it has been essentially a technical and financial issue: what needs to be fixed and how much will it cost. Companies and governments have been busy organising themselves to fix their computers, and see that their suppliers and customers were doing the same. But for the rest of us it has been, at best, an amusing quirk and at worst a bore. It has been hard to believe it matters. For example, someone must have mis-set the date on the little portable computer on which I am writing this

column, and it says it is 22 February 1900. Silly – but not very important because I am not relying on the computer to tell me the date.

In the last few weeks, though, the tone of the stories has changed. Suddenly it is becoming an economic story. Many people now realise that whether or not the bug is the threat it has been cracked up to be, the fact that people are worried about the bug's potential destructive powers will mean that it will have an important impact on the world economy.

Thus banks are stocking up on cash. This may be partly because they fear electronic payments systems might fail but it is much more because they fear people will want a larger-than-usual stock of cash. Fund managers are planning to cut trading in the weeks before and after the millennium in case trading systems go down. Conference organisers are pushing forward conferences to November or back to March just in case air travel is disrupted.

So even if there were no direct impact – if every computer and every embedded chip in the world functioned perfectly – the bug would still lead to some disruption. What

might this mean to the world economy? Well, in world financial circles perhaps the most alarmist view comes from Dr Ed Yardini, at Deutsche Securities in New York. He has upped his estimate of the chances of there being a "Y2K" global recession to 70 per cent.

True, he assumes that there will be serious computer failures and he may or may not be right about this. But he puts the argument in an interesting way by comparing the shock from the millennium bug with the oil shocks of the Seventies. Then we were an energy-driven economy and any break in the supply of energy damaged the world economy. Now we are an information-driven one and we face the threat of a break in the supply of information.

The parallel is beguiling, but it seems to me that you don't need to accept his argument to believe that he may be correct in his conclusions. He may be right for the wrong reasons. This is because the bug is adding to economic activity ahead of the millennium and will subtract from it afterwards. Spending on IT investment, particularly in the US, has soared in the last three to four years and is now more than 6 per cent of GDP



HAMISH MCRAE

The timing of the millennium comes at a bad point in the world economic cycle, when we're facing a tricky transition from inflation to deflation

and more than half of all US capital investment. Naturally much of that investment would have taken place anyway and is associated with the extraordinary longevity of the American boom.

It is very hard to distinguish what spending is fixing problems and what is putting in new systems to improve productivity. So expect investment in IT to race on after the bug is a long-forgotten problem. But the very dependence on IT systems for the vibrancy of US economic activity is itself a concern if there is doubt about the vulnerability of the systems. And once the great burst of work now going on to fix the bug problem is over, it would be astounding if there were not some sort of pause in spending – if only to assess priorities for the future.

There are therefore likely to be two different types of post-millennium flop. One comes from fear that through the summer and autumn both companies and individuals will stockpile ahead of the event, bringing forward activities (and hence purchases) they think might be affected by the bug. Then for a couple of months after the event (and maybe a

month before) they will wait and see what is what. For industries that can stockpile their output this may not be too much of a problem. For those that cannot, like airlines, the prospect is alarming indeed.

The second type of flop will stem from a swing in the IT investment cycle. The investment cycle has long been recognised as one of the drivers of the more general business cycle, but until recently IT was not a large portion of investment. We have lots of experience of the disruption impact of other investment cycles: airlines buying aircraft in good times, only to have them delivered at just the moment when demand fell, or property companies starting to build office blocks in a boom, only to complete them and have them half-empty in the next slump. But we don't have any experience of an IT investment cycle. Maybe this will be the first one.

To this must be added the possibility of a third type of flop, a financial market flop. Markets go up and markets go down. You do not need to paint the more extreme horror scenarios to accept that present valuations, particularly on Wall Street, are stretched. If there is a general "the party's over" feeling

around the millennium, it would be surprising if this were not reflected to some extent in share prices.

There is a precedent of sorts. In December 1899 the Dow fell by nearly a quarter. It subsequently recovered – but of course the US economy now is more vulnerable to market moves than it was then because a much larger proportion of the nation's wealth is tied up in shares.

We are a bit unlucky. The timing of the millennium comes at a bad point in the world economic cycle towards the end of a long boom in America, but before Japan and East Asia has recovered from its most serious post-war slump and when the European economy is performing unevenly. In addition, the world is facing a tricky transition from inflation to deflation.

The oil shock came at a bad time too: a sudden rise in energy prices at just the moment the world was facing an inflationary boom. But just as we could not choose the timing of the first oil shock, we cannot choose the timing of the millennium – even if my computer thinks we have prematurely reached the end of the century and gone back to 1900.

DATELINE: HONG KONG

Superman's son asked for a miracle

BY STEVEN VINES

BEING THE youngest son of Li Ka-shing, Hong Kong's most high-profile tycoon, confers certain advantages in life. Unsurprisingly, it has not done any harm to the burgeoning career of Richard Li Tzar-ki, 31. He has his father to thank for being given a leg-up in the business world. Now the Hong Kong government is about to hand him the key to the colony in the shape of the job of building its hi-tech future.

Mr Li senior was a master of low tech. He made his first fortune in the Fifties by producing plastic flowers. But he soon discovered there was more money to be had in redeveloping the factories that make them.

As a property tycoon, Mr Li senior has few equals: local investors call him "superman". When times were bad, as they were in the Seventies, he showed how adversity could be turned to profit by embarking on a property-buying spree and emerging with buckets full of cash.

Times are bad again in Hong Kong so it is perhaps not entirely surprising that the government has turned to his youngest son for another miracle.

Like the rest of the world, the bureaucrats who run Hong Kong have finally caught up with the idea that high technology is the key to high levels of economic growth. They have come to this realisation rather late in the day but treat it as a truly original thought.

Looking wistfully at Silicon Valley in the US and, more recently, at hi-tech developments in Israel, the bureaucrats have decided that they want a share of the action and, this being Hong Kong, they want it now.

Mr Li junior has been brought in to develop something called a cyberport, a 888,000 sq ft prime site, described as a port because it nestles close to the shoreline. Wired up with all the latest electronic hardware, the site is planned to house 130 companies, ranging from very large organisations, such as IBM, to small, two-men-and-a-desktop type of companies which are supposed to thrust Hong Kong into the information



Richard Li: Following in his high-profile father's footsteps

age. It will take quite a bit of thrusting because Hong Kong is notoriously deficient when it comes to developing new technology. In 1996-97 local companies invested a mere £250m on research and development, equivalent to 0.27 per cent of gross domestic product. Japanese companies at this time spent the equivalent of 0.6 per cent.

A survey conducted in 1994 found that a third of Hong Kong companies spent nothing at all on research and development, even this figure might not reflect the whole picture because very small companies were not included in the survey. Surveys do not appear to have been conducted since then, presumably the last exercise was too depressing.

Moreover, Hong Kong has a severe shortage of people with high-technology skills, probably no more than 37,000 who qualify in some way, and has an immigration policy which makes it hard for qualified foreigners to join the workforce.

However, Sir Donald Tsang, Hong Kong's ever-optimistic Financial Secretary, is confident that the cyberport "will provide quality products to upgrade our current economic activities and enable us to reach out to the limitless cyber market".

Some £1bn is to be invested in the project and it is expected to create 16,000 jobs with the help of compa-

nies such as Hewlett-Packard and the internet-surfing group Yahoo.

But there are aspects of this development which make some people in Hong Kong question whether any of this will really happen. For a start, there is some unease about the government dropping its traditional laissez-faire stance when it comes to the development of new industry. Hong Kong used to pride itself on the government keeping its nose out of business and letting the market decide which way the economy should go.

Now the government has decreed that high technology is the direction to take and backed its faith with an unprecedented gift of this large piece of property to Mr Li junior's Century Pacific Group.

Land is one of Hong Kong's most precious commodities. The government is the sole owner of land and usually releases it by a process of tender or auction. In this instance there was no tender and no auction.

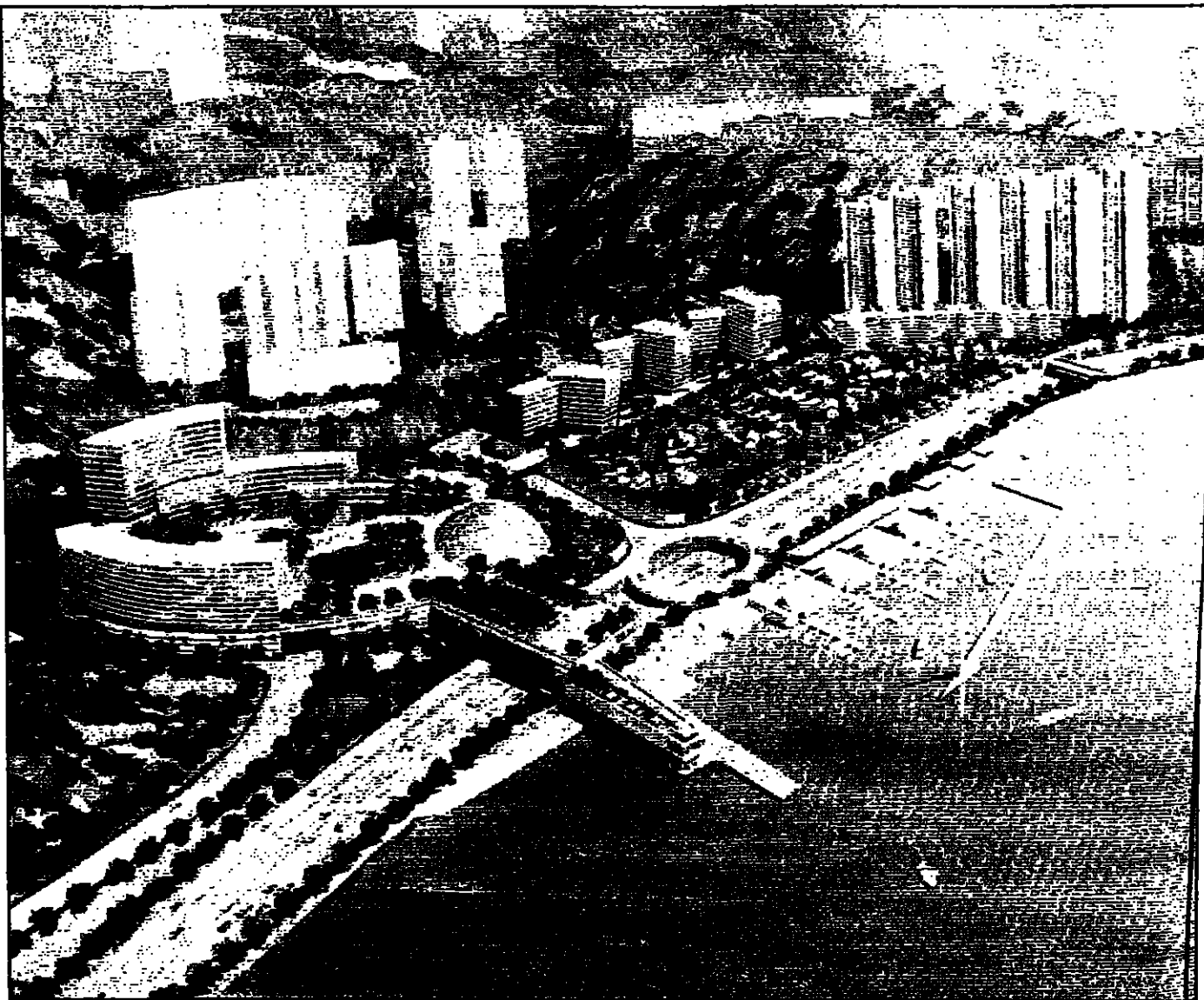
Only Pacific Century was invited to develop the site and it will have to pay only once it starts getting payments from its tenants.

One third of the cyberport project will, in fact, be devoted to a residential property development. The idea being that property rentals will subsidise the other hi-tech occupants.

According to the government, it gave the property to Mr Li junior because his company was the only one with the resources and the sophisticated technical knowhow to get the project off the ground.

This claim is being greeted with a degree of scepticism because the part of the Century Pacific Group which has been given the land is a private company whose assets are hidden from the public domain. Its listed arm is in Singapore and contains a hotch-pot of property and insurance company holdings.

The company has no money-making operations which involve information technology but it has signed a deal with Intel, the US-based semiconductor maker. As matters stand, the signature on the



This illustration shows how Hong Kong's cyberport project at Telegraph Bay in the Pokfulam district will look

contract is the most substantial part of the deal. Nevertheless, Mr Li junior talks a lot about new technology and when he set up Pacific Century in 1993, at the age of 26, he declared that it would be a holding company for high-technology investments. The only hi-tech project it actually got off the ground was an esoteric operation employing very

small aperture terminal technology used to provide telecommunications links for companies in areas where telecom facilities were poor. After a couple of years, in which not a penny was earned, this company was sold off to the publicly listed Hutchison Whampoa, controlled by Mr Li senior.

Mr Li junior's company is still

talking about a number of hi-tech projects: it remains to be seen whether any of them will fly. What is sure is that Pacific Century will use the cyberport to build an office block or two and a large number of flats.

No one in Hong Kong seems to remember how Mr Li senior laid the basis for his fortune. He went

around persuading owners of developed properties to allow to develop for them and paid them once he had built gleaming offices. Mr Li junior looks as though he is doing exactly the same, though he claims to be doing something quite different and government is investing an awful lot of faith in him.

A WEEKLY DIGEST OF THE WORLD'S FINANCIAL PRESS

BARRON'S

BARRON'S
How the debate has shifted from 'whether' to 'when' China will devalue its currency

THE SPECULATION has been fuelled by reports that Beijing has formed a special team to study the impact of a possible devaluation of the yuan, and a warning by China's top foreign-trade official that the nation's exports face a "very tough, very difficult" year. Capital flight puts further pressure on the yuan. Last summer we didn't anticipate the magnitude and rapidity of China's economic slide, underscored by skyrocketing unemployment, increasing bankruptcies of state enterprises and banks, and rising violence in economically ravaged rural areas.

—Neil A Martin

FINANCIAL TIMES

FINANCIAL TIMES
As the outlook in Europe deteriorates, rates need to fall as well as the euro to provide relief for industry

THE BIGGEST obstacle to lower interest rates in the euro-zone has been politics rather than economics. The ECB has been determined to prove its independence in the face of calls for lower rates from politicians. With the departure of Oskar Lafontaine, the former German finance minister, this must not continue.

The International Monetary Fund last week became the latest international institution to call for lower euro-zone rates. The ECB has proved its independence from politicians. It must not now demonstrate an indifference to common sense.

—Editorial

The Economist

THE ECONOMIST
Why the US should raise interest rates and return to its policy position of last summer

THE FED cut rates three times last autumn. [But] since September, fears of a credit crunch have dissipated; the Dow has risen some 25 per cent and the US economy has grown even more briskly than predicted.

There is a risk that a rise in rates might trigger a fall on Wall Street, harming not only the US economy. But while the Fed should be raising rates, the European Central Bank should be cutting them, and Japan needs deflation too. For the Fed, doing nothing is riskier still. It is not the central bank's job to prop up an overvalued stockmarket.

—Editorial

BusinessWeek

BUSINESS WEEK
Why resistance to hostile takeovers means Germany risks missing out on the restructuring it needs

A SINGLE shareholder frequently holds a majority stake in German companies. Interlocking holdings among banks and insurers is further defence against unwanted intrusion. It's time for German authorities to give companies more freedom to duke it out until the best wins.

Schröder, now Chancellor, could temporarily cut the 50-per-cent-plus capital-gains tax to prod banks to sell industrial stakes. The take-over code needs to be made mandatory too. German execs know they have to toughen up. Their government should give them a nudge in the right direction.

—Jack Ewing, Frankfurt bureau

FINANCIAL NEWS

FINANCIAL NEWS
On the real problem with the Stock Exchange's new electronic order book

ONE OF the biggest problems with Sets is that old-fashioned fund managers are still so wedded to the idea of instant execution. Time and again they deal with brokers on a risk basis, instead of putting business through the order book, because they cannot resist what appears to be an attractive bid from the broker. What the fund managers need to remember is that if brokers are bidding them for stock, it is because they know they can make money on it. Marketmaking firms that struggled to make a decent return under the old trading system are making hay under Sets.

—Editorial

Newsweek

NEWSWEEK
On the new Dow Generation, which believes that God created stocks in order to make them rich

AMONG HOUSEHOLDS a record 44 per cent now own stocks. Yet they've been taking some money out. Last year, individuals sold a net \$500bn of the equities they hold directly. Net purchases by mutual funds fell 14 per cent. So why is the Dow still going up? Partly, it's the result of a net decline in the supply of stocks. Things like mergers and buybacks shrink the market by \$178bn last year. Speculation is helping, too. As a percentage of personal income, money borrowed from brokers to buy stock has never been so high. And you can't rule out the Dow-Gen's bull. It's their special mark.

—Jane Bryant Quinn

FORTUNE

FORTUNE
On how US politicians enslave principles of free trade law in the practice of protectionism

THE THEORY is that Brazil, India and Russia are "dumping" steel below the cost of production in US markets. Taken as a whole, U.S. policy conveys a strange message. Americans should happily send dollars to all economies, but should object if they send us steel. This defies all logic.

Policymakers would do even a favour if they heeded the slogan: "trade, not aid." An open trade system is one of the surest ways to promote growth around the world. Sady, current American policy gets things exactly backward.

—N Gregory Mankiw



Pierre Lescure undoubtedly matches Rupert Murdoch with the extent of his ambition, which is to make French TV company Canal Plus a 'major' in the Hollywood sense of the word

Sipa

Canal + Murdoch = war

BY KATE BULKLEY

It looked like a dream deal for Rupert Murdoch. Hitch Sky to Canal Plus and corner the European market in pay TV. But he reckoned without the ambition of the French TV mogul Pierre Lescure...

WHEN Pierre Lescure tells it, there was a dramatic change in Rupert Murdoch's approach when he came to France in January to propose a merger of his British Sky Broadcasting with Canal Plus. "He was the English with a fair dose of Maurice Chevalier," says Lescure, who is 53 years old and has run Canal Plus since 1984. "Before January, Rupert had always talked about coming to the Continent and taking the wheel. This is the first time that he talked about offering a stake one of his jewels (in return)."

But with all of Murdoch's attempts to obtain a foothold in Continental Europe's fast growing pay-TV market, it was to be.

Much's proposal to merge News Corp's 49 per cent-controlled "jewel" BSkyB with Canal Plus foundered on a number of issues. There were the screams of protest from French politicians worried about invasion of cheap imported programming on French TV screens. Murdoch's outspoken anti-European views and his impatience with government regulations any firm also graced with the Left-tilted French government. Murdoch had wanted Paris but Paris didn't want him.

For part, Lescure set some tough conditions on a Canal-Sky merger too, notably the new company would be under French control. The merger would have cost much more. Besides ceding management control, there were tax issues involved. Just three meetings, the deal was out the fact that it was Murdoch knocking Canal's door says volumes about strong the French pay-TV company become.

"Years ago we were a little afraid of Murdoch," confided a senior Canal Plus executive. "Now we are a force. We control 10 million subscriptions. Murdoch doesn't scare us anymore."

The European pay-TV market is set to grow to about 55 million subscribers by the end of 1998 to about 97 million by 2006, according to figures from Baskerville Communications. And with digital technology business is about more than just TV. Interactive services from weather to Internet access are part of the pay-TV picture. By 2003 there will be 29 million digital set boxes in Europe with a built-in mobile according to consultancy Data-moni.

Much runs a global media empire, and in UK BSkyB has a virtual stranglehold pay TV but across the Channel, Murdoch is notable for his absence. Not that he hasn't been trying. But his frontal assault in Germany and Italy have so far yielded little.

Meanwhile, Canal Plus boasts pay-TV operations in 11 European countries, and north Africa. After three years of heavy cost-cutting digital services, 1999 will see a break even on its French digital business and return to 1996 pre-digital cash levels of an estimated 4bn French francs (\$420m).

In the grand European plan, Lescure's only gap is in Germany, but even there Canal sells some of its thematic channels on the extensive cable network and holds a minority stake alongside Murdoch in VOX. Murdoch has said he could turn VOX into a pay-TV platform, but little has actually been done.

For the time being the powerful Kirch Group holds the upper hand in German pay TV. The ageing but very wily Leo Kirch is negotiating to take full control of the pay-TV operator Premiere from its partner, but erstwhile rival, the channel Bertelsmann. Bertelsmann, which also publishes newspapers and magazines and owns publishers Random House, seems to be pursuing an alternative strategy, moving quickly into online ventures with AOL, Barnes and Noble, and Lycos. It wants to keep its extensive free-TV business, which runs the RTL stable of channels, but may be prepared to surrender Premiere. Gaining control of Premiere will give Kirch the distinction of ruling Germany's pay-TV market which, contrary to its free-TV business, is under-developed.

Over the years, Murdoch and Canal Plus have both tried to gain pay-TV footholds in Germany. But the huge number of free-TV channels, plus local and European regulations that have limited the ability of the German players, namely Bertelsmann, Deutsche Telekom and Kirch, to work together, has made pay TV expensive to operate and has limited its growth.

Earlier this month Kirch reorganised and created stronger ties with Mediaset,

the TV and advertising arm of Silvio Berlusconi's Fininvest. However, the new DM11bn (£3.8bn) company which counts Saudi Prince Alwaleed bin Talal as an investor does not include Kirch's loss-making digital pay-TV business DFL, nor its stake in Premiere. So some observers see Kirch looking for partners in pay TV.

Lescure's comment on Germany is that he hopes Kirch can revive DFL so Canal Plus can sell him their thematic channels.

Locked out of Germany at least for the time being, Murdoch earlier this year made a run at Italy. In a thinly veiled attempt to look more European, he hired the former head of the Italian state broadcaster, Letizia Moratti, and announced a deal with Telecom Italia to develop its fledgling pay-TV business, which was suffering against its rival, Tele+, which is controlled by Canal Plus.

As it turned out, the deal with Telecom Italia was more Murdoch bravado than substance. Italian politicians, wary of allowing Italian TV to fall into foreign hands, also moved quickly. A new cap on the number of football games a pay-TV operator can control was put into place, leaving Murdoch little ammunition against the dominant player Tele+. Shortly after this fiasco, Murdoch came calling in Paris.

Lescure undoubtedly matches Murdoch with the extent of his ambition. Each controls a different end of the spectrum - Lescure has Europe, not the world, while for Murdoch the situation is reversed. Canal Plus is a big name in France, but Lescure

wants to be taken seriously by the English-speaking world. When he was first invited to the Allen & Co annual gathering of the world's media elite at Sun Valley, where the likes of Barry Diller, John Malone, Jeffrey Katzenberg and Murdoch himself rub shoulders, Lescure was thrilled. One senior TV executive who knows him well says: "Pierre loves all that." For Lescure, the man who once dated French film icon Catherine Deneuve and counts Gerard Depardieu as a good friend, Sun Valley is access to the Anglo-Saxon world.

Canal Plus is fast developing outside of France, where nearly half of its subscription base now lies (see chart). Its core channel, called Canal+, has been up and running since November 1984 and mixes exclusive sports, movies and entertainment, much of it locally produced. The company holds exclusive pay rights to French football league games until 2001. Under its government licence, Canal Plus puts 20 per cent of its revenues into acquiring film rights, and has traditionally invested in 90 per cent of the films made in France. The company also has invested in 30 different thematic channels, from a documentary channel, Planete, to a 1950s US cult TV channel, Jimmy Hendrix. Twenty-two of these channels have been developed with the former international arm of Tele-Communications Inc (TCI). Canal also owns about a third of Eurosport. Many of the Canal channels are localised and exported to the company's non-French services.

Canal Plus was quicker to introduce dig-

ital television than Sky. Partly this was due to competitive pressure in France from a rival service called TPS, controlled by TF1. Since launching its CanalSatellite digital service in April 1996 Canal Plus has signed up 1.2 million subscribers in France. TPS counts about 610,000 subscribers. But Canal Plus's roots - and for the time being its profits - are in its flagship terrestrial service. Today 75 per cent of its 4.5 million French subscribers pay 179FF (£19) a month to receive just the one-channel service. In other European countries, Canal Plus has tried to replicate the French model, with varying degrees of success. But all of its non-French operations are set to break even over the next three years (see chart).

In Spain, with publishing powerhouse the Prisa Group, Canal Plus has had a rough time juggling shifting government rules that form the background to on-again, off-again merger talks with its rival, Via Digital, controlled by the former state-owned telecom operator Telefonica.

Early in 1997 Canal Plus achieved a real coup by acquiring its biggest pay-TV competitor NetHold - owners of the FilmNet film channel - from the luxury goods company Richemont. Although some said the price tag was high, the deal extended Canal's presence in several key markets, namely Scandinavia and the Benelux countries, and gave Canal a minority stake in Tele+.

That same year Canal Plus also did a little horse trading with Kirch, selling Kirch its stake in Premiere, and buying

Kirch's 45 per cent stake in Tele+, thereby giving it control of the Italian pay-TV operator.

Last year Vivendi, the water-to-media group formerly known as Compagnie Generale des Eaux, took direct control of Canal Plus when it increased its stake in the advertising group Havas, which has a large stake in Canal Plus. At the time observers wondered if Lescure's powers would be undermined by Vivendi's aggressive and driven CEO, Jean-Marie Messier.

However, when Lescure perceived a threat to CanalSatellite, which Canal Plus owns with partners, French producer Pathe and US giant Time Warner, Messier was quick to pitch in. When Canal Plus's rival TF1 began purchasing shares in Pathe, Lescure and Vivendi stepped in, buying nearly 30 per cent of Pathe's shares. TF1 maintains it was only making a friendly alliance with Pathe, but it also controls TPS, CanalSatellite's rival. Lescure was not about to have his rival so close to "the heart" of CanalSatellite.

Before taking the top job at Canal Plus, Lescure was the programming director. His ambition is to make Canal Plus a "major" in the Hollywood sense of the word. His first experience with the Hollywood set cost Canal Plus more than £25m (£15m) as his partners, Carolo, crashed and burned in the mid-1990s through budget mismanagement. It was an expensive lesson. Lescure's 17 per cent shareholding in that deal gave him no voice and nowadays it is an equal partnership or nothing.

That is the structure of the year-old movie deal he has with Warner Brothers, the first fruit of which - a film called *Message in a Bottle* starring Kevin Costner - opens in Europe this summer.

Lescure says that all the elements are in position to build a full-scale global company. His power in France in particular, and Europe in general, may be providing the foundation, but it is also holding him back.

"All we need to decide is the architecture of the house," says Lescure. But if he wants a room with a view of the whole world, then France's most powerful TV mogul will have to put all his focus into projects outside his homeland, especially in North America. Canal Plus has had some success selling its pay-TV technology into the US market, but programming is Lescure's probable best building block to the English-speaking world. Recently Lescure decided to group together his production, TV rights and distribution assets into a re-vamped company called Canal Plus Images, which will float on the market in the next 18 months.

But although great programming is the way forward for Lescure's global ambition, it will be his political skills which will be tested. The Australian-born Murdoch started off as just as much an outsider in America, and eventually had to become a legal US citizen to dodge US media laws. Pierre Lescure could never be so obvious (his countrymen would snuff him), but somehow or other, he'll find the appropriate key to open the New World door.

THE COUP THAT GAVE CANAL PLUS TO M LESCURE

THE STORY goes that Pierre Lescure, who was working as a news director at public station Antenne 2, took barely five minutes to accept the post of programme director at the newly founded Canal Plus. The request came in late 1983 from Canal Plus founder Andre Rousselet, then a top executive at Havas, who had a vision and the right political connections (he was a golfing buddy of former French President Francois Mitterrand) to get a license to run a channel to com-

pete against France's three government-owned channels. Rousselet wanted to set up an HBO-like pay TV movie channel but French law prevents airing movies on Friday and Saturday nights, to protect French cinema. So Lescure mixed movies with live sports coverage, documentaries and musical events. He also spearheaded the development of home-grown programming, from cartoons made by Canal's own studios to the popular *Les Guignols*, a satirical look at society and

politics that uses sophisticated puppets to poke fun at everyone from French politicians to the heads of Canal Plus's rivals. Lescure himself has a puppet. When the company acquired NetHold, *Les Guignols* ran a sketch with Lescure describing Canal's "simple" structure; he kept climbing higher and higher - on to his desk, up an elevator - to add pieces to the organisational chart, until finally he was floating in a spaceship saying: "See, it's all very simple and clear."

Lescure became COO of Canal Plus in 1986. By late 1993 and early 1994 Rousselet was fighting with his main shareholder Havas over a consolidation of its stake with another shareholder Compagnie Generale des Eaux. It was part of the first steps toward creating the multi-media group now called Vivendi, but Rousselet felt that his power at Canal was being stripped away. Rousselet resigned and Lescure was named CEO in February 1994.

Pierre Lescure:
Born July 1945
October 1982 news director Antenne 2
November 1983 joined Canal Plus as programme director
May 1986 COO of Canal Plus
February 1994 chairman and CEO Canal Plus
Lescure is president of the Paris St-Germain football club (in which Canal Plus owns a stake) and he is chairman of Canal Plus's film subsidiary Studio Canal

ENTERPRISE ISSUES

Theorists should admit they make mistakes

IT IS a sign of either greater wisdom or the woolliness of thought that comes with age and motherhood, but it seems to me that the most frightening people are those who are sure they are right. Far less damage is caused by the tentative folks who are prepared to admit they might be mistaken, and that goes for economic policy as much as anything else.

There has been a series of spectacular demonstrations in recent years of the damage inflicted by excess certainty on the world economy. Most of them have involved developing countries which have fallen victim to one theory or another about how economies progress. The transition economies of Eastern Europe and Russia were hammered by the extreme free market ideology of the Thatcher and Reagan era, and the notion that markets were the one and only key to development also carried over to East Asia.

It must be pretty obvious to even the most hardened ideologue by now that markets are not enough. Russia is in turmoil. In Asia, some countries, such as South Korea, seem on the way to recovery, but

others, like Indonesia, are suffering terrible dislocation and hardship. There are few parts of the world outside the club of advanced post-industrial economies not experiencing turbulence from the wash of the global financial crisis.

In circumstances like these, economic historians come into their own. A new pamphlet by one eminent historian, Douglass North, published by the Institute of Economic Affairs (the IEA) was one of the pioneers of that damaging free-market extremism, makes an eloquent case for being modest about what we can achieve in terms of economic development. Professor North writes: "Economic history is an endless depressing tale of miscalculation leading to famine, starvation, death, economic stagnation and decline, and indeed the disappearance of whole civilisations." The spectacular growth of the Western world in the past four or five centuries is, he argues, an aberration.

He suggests there are three ways we normally get things wrong. One is never being able to know enough about reality be-

cause the world is so large and complex. A second is being misled by a particular belief system or ideology, which means we will twist evidence to what we think ought to be true. The third, and most interesting in the context of the recent upheaval in emerging and transition economies, is having scant understanding of the role played by institutional structures and politics in economic growth.

Clearly, one of the explanations for the differing abilities of countries to cope with the financial crisis has been their differing institutional frameworks. It has become part of the new conventional wisdom to say that strong banking systems, an incorrupt civil service, the application of the rule of law, and so on, are preconditions for economic development. This has also been emphasised in the work of many outstanding academic economists over the years, including Amartya Sen, last year's winner of the Nobel Prize in economics. But it is true to say it has been overlooked by many professional economists in the recent past and is only now starting to permeate everyday economics.



DIANE COYLE

Look at the damage inflicted by excess of certainty - it must be obvious to even the most hardened ideologue that free markets alone are not enough

Professor North spells out here what ought to have been blindingly obvious all along - and was to many non-professionals. "Any market that is going to work well is structured; it is structured by deliberate efforts to make the players compete by price and quality rather than compete by killing each other."

The job of government is to structure the game in such a way as to minimise violence and poverty and maximise economic gains. This will require radically different structures at different times, because circumstances change - technology moves on, for example, turning what was once a natural monopoly into a potentially competitive market.

The conventional elements of the recipe for growth are more people, more physical capital and a better quality of both - and technical progress. The missing ingredient is the right institutional structure. Some of the gaps in our understanding are starting to be filled by research on globalisation. For the first time there is a lot of comparative work covering the whole planet, not just the

advanced or just the developing economies. A book published this week, *Global Transformations* by David Held and others, is an impressive and comprehensive synthesis of recent political and economic changes. We need a lot more of this sort of insight.

It is not just a matter of preventing Western academics wreaking unintended havoc on developing countries, although there is clearly a need for intellectual modesty here. Insight into institutions and politics also matters for our understanding of our own economies and how their performance might be improved. In a recent speech Lawrence Summers, the US Deputy Treasury Secretary, noted that no two countries with a McDonald's had gone to war with each other. It's a funny line, but makes a serious point.

To get even more parochial, there is an institutional and political chasm between Anglo-Saxon and Continental labour markets. The US has low unemployment, Europe high levels. Wage structures and benefit systems differ widely. Is one model better than the other? Similarly, the US has a

vastly greater rate of new business start-ups and dominates the high-technology industries. This is an aspect of the American economy that Gordon Brown would like to import to the UK. The Budget contained a few modest tax incentives, but we actually know very little about what it is in America that fosters entrepreneurship and an aptitude for computers.

The best of Britain's economics profession, gathering in Nottingham this week for the annual conference of the Royal Economic Society, appears to have been smitten with uncertainty compared with years past. The research being presented is heavily weighted towards the empirical and the institutional. Perhaps we will start getting some answers now that the fact there is a question has been acknowledged.

d.coyle@independent.co.uk
Understanding the Process of Economic Change, by Douglass North (IEA 0171-799 3745)
Global Transformations, by David Held, Anthony McGrew, David Goldblatt and Jonathan Perraton (Polity Press)

FOCUS

Will the Internet frenzy ever die?

BY ANDREW MARSHALL

HISTORY IS not a popular topic on the stock market or with Internet entrepreneurs. But the frantic pace of activity among new Internet stocks raises some questions about how far the past is a guide to future market performance in one of the most fast-developing areas of investment.

At the end of last year, it looked as if the market for initial public offerings (IPOs) of Internet companies had died under the weight of supply and concerns about the broader market place. In the past few months it has exploded again, and the flow of new IPOs in the coming weeks looks almost unstoppable, raising questions about whether history will repeat itself.

The IPO market as a whole had a hair-curling time last year, culminating with Stephen Paternot and Todd Krizelman making Wall Street history when their Internet company, theglobe.com, surged to a record premium on the first day's trading. The huge volume of public offerings in the first half of the year then dried up as oversupply, turmoil in the broader market and poor performance in the after-market hit demand. In the first quarter of 1998 there were 65 deals raising \$5.5bn (£3.3bn) in equity, according to Renaissance Capital's IPO Intelligence Online, rising to 104 deals and \$15bn in the second quarter. The third and fourth quarters combined saw only 78 deals, raising \$24bn.

But the IPO market has taken off again this year, with dozens of deals

hitting the market. Most - and certainly the most lucrative for the investors - are Internet-related. In February 1998 there were 46 IPOs of which two were Internet-based, according to *IPO Reporter* newsletter. In February 1999, there were 36, of which 10 were Internet-related, and by the end of February, 28 new Internet companies had filed notice of plans for offerings.

The stock which ended the IPO doldrums was eBay, the online auctioneer, which is one of the few Internet companies to actually make a profit. Its target price last September was \$19 a share and it ended the first day at \$47; by December \$1 it stood at \$241.25, up 1,240 per cent.

The Internet frenzy is being fed by venture capital firms, which poured a record \$12bn into new companies last year, according to VentureOne, a San Francisco research firm. Although the number of deals plunged as the market collapsed at the end of the year, Internet startups accounted for about a third of venture-capital backed IPOs, compared to 12 per cent the year before. In the third quarter of last year, mergers and acquisitions heavily outpaced IPOs, as larger technology companies bought out Internet startups, but now the direction of movement is back towards public offerings. The results - for investors, venture capitalists and the companies concerned - are too attractive to miss.

These deals have shown some extraordinary performers, such as iVillage, a women's network. The company doubled the expected starting price range before it launched, and even then the stock ended its first day up more than 230 per cent. It sold a 16 per cent stake to raise \$87.6m.

MiningCo.com, an Internet search service, earlier this month raised its expected share price from \$12-\$14 to \$23-\$25, an indication of the scale of the demand. It priced at \$25 last week and started trading at \$55.

Most Internet stocks have debuted up more than 100 per cent on their first day, and the trend is for the price range to be doubled before launch. Priceline.com, which sells financial and travel services, became the latest on Friday last week, raising its price range to between \$12 and \$14 from \$7 and \$9.

There have been plenty of stocks in there for eager investors: Cheap Tickets, a Hawaii-based airline ticket re-seller, MarketWatch.com, a financial information site, and many others. Those expected to make their appearance in coming weeks include some established companies floating off the Internet-related arms of their business, attracted by the growing frenzy. Barnes and Noble, the large US bookseller, and Bertelsmann, the German media company, are to offer shares in their online joint venture, Barnesandnoble.com, and Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette Securities is floating part



Stephen Paternot and Todd Krizelman saw their firm theglobe.com surge to a record premium on its first day's trading Neville El

of its DLJdirect online trading service. One of the latest to file is topjobs.net plc, a British-based recruitment advertising company.

The apparent attractions of these stocks for individual investors have helped keep interest at fever pitch, especially amongst the day traders who devote their lives to the market. The dozen or so Internet offerings that have already priced this year have risen an average of 200 per cent from their offering prices. But it is worth pointing out that there are plenty of risks as well. Few individual investors were in for the kill on the first day. Investors who bought in the retail market at the starting

price would have lost money on IPOs taken as a whole last year. Most of the gains - and most of the demand now - comes from the large institutional investors.

The IPO market is almost completely absorbed with Internet stocks at the moment, raising some questions about the market's broader strength. Other IPOs like the management recruitment firm Korn/Ferry, or the fruit company Del Monte, have performed much less impressively. Eleven deals are set to come to market this week; but five are held over from last week. Pepsi's Pepsi Bottling Group is among them, and it is planning to raise

around \$2.5bn. It is emblematic of the market's problems that it may go with less than a bang. Of seven IPOs last week, five - all Internet-related - soared; the other two (Ducati Motor Holdings and Delta Gail Industries) hit trouble.

The attractions are clear: when the deal works, the venture capitalists get a huge return on their investment; the institutions which buy the stocks make a fast killing, and the individual investors who take on the stocks have a reasonable expectation of stunning gains. When Broadcast.com goes up 250 per cent in its first day, everybody is happy; but not every stock follows that pattern. The boom

may be losing momentum: though the figures for last week look spectacular, they are down from average gains of more than 200 per cent earlier in the year.

Hanging over the market is question of last year's collapse. That was in part the result of oversupply, coming at a time when demand was sloping off and was rising about the rest of the world. Non-Internet IPOs already having to postpone deals there are more than enough in the pipeline this year to make for a busy calendar. The question is whether there is the momentum there to support the

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هنا من الأصل

Profits are rocketing and dividends are rising. But shares are plummeting and it's just fallen out of the FTSE 100. So is Greg Hutchings' Tomkins just a fashion victim – or are there fundamental flaws with a company that makes everything from Hovis bread and Mr Kipling cakes to Hayter lawnmowers and Smith & Wesson guns?

The outsider

BY TERRY WILKINSON

ONE could blame Greg Hutchings, the 41m-plus-a-year chairman of Tomkins, for the occasional bout of despair. Hutchings cringes at the "to guns" tag that Tomkins has landed with because of its ownership of Mother's Pride on the one hand and Smith & Wesson on the other. But he is even more exasperated at the lack of appreciation by the City. There is a point. The financial record of Tomkins has been unimpeachable since he joined in 1994. Profits at what began life as a Midlands maker of fasteners have grown from £1.6m in 1983 to an expected £500m this year. Employees have soared from 10,000 to over 60,000 and dividends to shareholders have grown at a compound rate of 15 per cent. And yet, Tomkins' share price has plummeted through the mangle. In the 12 months the shares have halved back to levels seen years ago, and Greg Hutchings' patience and joy has been removed from the FTSE 100 index. Why is Tomkins so unloved? Its growth this year will be less than in previous years and the stock market is expecting only a small increase in profits for the year – to a little over £500m – although dividend growth is expected to be a solid 14 per cent again. But that is not the reason for Tomkins' near demise. Partly it is a question of stock market fashion. Just as all the conglomerates that dominated the market in the Eighties have gone, some, such as Hanson, have broken themselves up. Or, like Williams, they have re-invented themselves – in Williams' case as a protection and security company. RHM has been swallowed up, and even GEC, which once owned companies as avidly as its assets restructured.

And the moment when Tomkins began to lose its fan club, only to go back seven years to its acquisition of the Rank Hovis McDougall, cakes and grocery group (RHM). The market never liked the £970m deal and it has punished the company's share price ever since. "In these days are looking for focused focus, Tomkins is really that of the great diversified conglomerates," says Andy Chambers of Securities. "This fashion has not passed Tomkins. Since 1997 it has sold more than 20 businesses and tried to persuade investors that it is 'focused' three core areas: construction, components, food manufacturing and industrial and automotive engineering. In Dyson, the company finally managed to escape from the leper-



Greg Hutchings, Tomkins' chairman, is exasperated by the City's scepticism in the face of his empire's financial track record

John Voos

like diversified industrial sector of the stock market and was re-classified as an engineer. Little good it has done them. There is also the problem of Smith & Wesson's smoking gun. Product liability lawyers in the US have been limbering up for action. In a case in New York, which ended in February, a jury said that Smith & Wesson was not negligent in the way it distributed its guns, although some other gun manufacturers were. Out of seven cases against gun makers, only one has resulted in damages – of around \$500,000 – but municipal suits are pending in New Orleans, Atlanta and Chicago. Smith & Wesson accounts for less than 1 per cent of Tomkins' profits but a jumpy stock market may fear

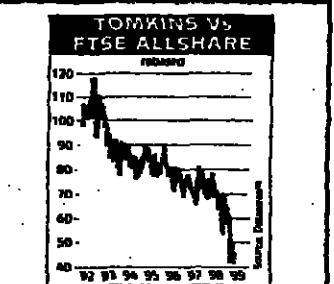
a flood of negative judgements. Tomkins' longest-established, but in the UK probably least well-known, business is its £1.2bn construction components division, located entirely in the US. It now takes in grilles, air conditioning louvres, bathtubs, showers and acrylic whirlpools, together with PVC plumbing products and wheels for recreational vehicles. Doubts that there is any synergy between such a disparate clutch of activities are countered by Tomkins' assertion that a large number of these products all end up on, for example, US recreational vehicles, so it is a one-stop shop for customers in this growth market. RHM is clearly a major player for Tomkins. It is the UK's largest flour

mill with a 28-per-cent market share, bolstered by the addition of two mills from Dalgely last year. Despite a relentless series of "Bread Wars" waged by the major supermarket groups, it has got behind its Hovis brand, which is the UK market leader lifting sales by 50 per cent in the past five years. Through Mr Kipling, Cadbury's Cakes and Lyons' Cakes it holds the top three brands with over 20 per cent of the £1bn-a-year UK cake market. Plus, RHM is a brand leader in groceries. Tomkins has also been visibly flexing its manufacturing muscles. Since 1993 it has topped 26 per cent off the head-count in milling and baking and cut its unit-operating costs by 13 per cent. Its reward has

been a 60 per-cent rise in profits since 1994 in food manufacturing to £160m, and a fattening-up of profit margins to 9 per cent. Successful marketing campaigns have rejuvenated Tomkins' traditional brands from time to time in the UK, but the option of turning, say, Mother's Pride or Mr Kipling into global brands is not realistic. So Tomkins' food operations have also been hitching their wagons to the growth areas of the food market and expanding their overseas baking activities in France and Belgium. Long-standing relationships with Marks & Spencer in cakes and now chilled foods have been strengthened to include Whitbread. Fast foods have also given Tomkins an indirect presence outside the UK as

a sole supplier of dough bases to Pizza Hut in the UK and Europe. And, with the purchase of Golden West Foods last year, the company has become the top UK supplier of buns, drinks, sauces and distribution services to McDonald's Restaurants in the UK and mainland Europe. Until 1996, few would have regarded Tomkins as a serious engineer. It has since built up a £1.6bn industrial and automotive and engineering arm to match its food manufacturing operations. The process began in 1996 with the watershed acquisition of Gates, a global, US-based supplier of automotive and industrial transmission belts, hoses and connectors. The following year Tomkins paid

SNAP SHOT



Chairman: Greg Hutchings
Employees: 66,000
1998 turnover: £5bn
1998 pre-tax profit: £500m
Market capitalisation: £3.2bn
Activities: Engineering 33%, food 33%, components 28%, professional, garden and leisure 5%.
Consumer brands: Hovis, Mother's Pride, Lyons' Cakes, Sharwoods, Smith & Wesson
Major acquisitions: Phillips Industries, Rank Hovis McDougall, Gates, Stant

£360m for Stant, a supplier of wind-shield wipers and fuel tank filler caps, and in 1998 it topped up its automotive portfolio with the £155m acquisition of Schrader-Briggsport, which makes fluid controls. Tomkins' US engineering companies all have substantial shares of their chosen markets, and the product ranges of Stant and Schrader-Briggsport can be fed into Gates' well-established global network to supply automotive makers around the world.

Down the road there are further opportunities to consolidate the automotive component supplier base and improve profits. The problem for investors is that this gives Tomkins a schizophrenic image. It is hard to believe that fund managers have views about the relative attractiveness of food manufacturing and automotive components – let alone whirlpool baths – that coincide exactly with those of Tomkins.

It is more likely these days that they would prefer to invest separately in major suppliers and adjust their holdings in each one as market prospects changed. There's not that choice with Tomkins. "We believe that the offer to buy back shares is a recognition by the company that the option of continuing to operate Tomkins as before has run out," says Arend Dijkster of Salomon Smith Barney. In other words, Tomkins is under pressure to decide whether it is an engineer, a food manufacturer or a maker of whirlpool baths. With a market worth less than two-thirds of the level of its £5bn sales base, and healthy profit margins, there is a chance that others may make the decision for Tomkins since, despite the Smith & Wesson factor, the huge cash flows from RHM could entice buy-out or break-up exponents.

THE PLAYER: PHILIP SWINSTEAD, CHAIRMAN OF PARITY

We want to lead the world in e-commerce

PERSONAL DETAILS: Aged 56. Lives inbury, Berkshire. Drives silver Aston Martin DB6 convertible. Hobbies include collecting classic cars and his vineyard in the South of France. A keen sportsman, he enjoys playing cricket, golf and skiing. Fived OBE for his contribution to the UK software industry. Total salary/fees in 1997 of £68,000.

CHALLENGE: To repeat the success of past five years during which Parity's market capitalisation

has grown from £2m to around £300m. Mr Swinstead says companies "always have to have a vision." He predicts that electronic commerce will be a major boom sector. "We are throwing our hat into the e-commerce ring," he says, and forecasts Parity "will be one of the leaders in the western world."

CORPORATE BACKGROUND: Mr Swinstead has been described by industry insiders as "the great guru of the IT services sector." He has extensive knowledge of the sector

garnered from his 40 years in the industry. He led the management buy-in to create Parity in 1993. He had founded and run SD-Scion for 23 years, turning it into one of Europe's largest software services companies. It was sold in 1991 to EDS, part of General Motors.

STRATEGY: When Parity was created five years ago its clear strategy was to create a significant IT business with two arms: international IT solutions and a high quality IT staff agency in the UK. This

BY NICOLA REEVES



was achieved in 1998 with the two divisions producing combined revenues of £290m. Mr Swinstead says Y2K issues and the impact of the euro are "not major factors". He is confident western air traffic control and nuclear systems will not fail as a result of the date change. He anticipates problems with some accounting, billing and City systems. Parity is back on the acquisition trail after a quiet year in 1998. Three businesses purchased in the previous year were successfully integrated into the group. "We have a very clear

idea about who we want to be", he says. He would like to broaden Parity's geographic coverage in the US, outside its base in New York. There is also thought to be scope to acquire some niche businesses in Continental Europe in areas such as training and consultancy.

MANAGEMENT STYLE: Relaxed. The management of the group is a team effort, says Mr Swinstead, who spends much of his time on strategy, assessing the future direction of the company and any

possible acquisition opportunities.

MOST ADMIRERS IN BUSINESS: Philip Hughes and his Logica computer software company. Other companies Mr Swinstead rates highly include Admiral and Druid.

CITY VERDICT: Parity does not enjoy the lofty ratings seen by larger computer software companies such as Logica. This reflects the lower value placed by the City on Parity's staff agency business. But Mr Swinstead is highly regarded.

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THE CANARY

Welcome to London: Tony Blair himself is expected to greet delegates to the annual meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development which throws its annual bash in London next week. Doubtless he will be too polite to mention the bank's massive losses in Russia. The bank is refusing to disclose the condition of its loan book, describing the matter as "secret".

Sell the euro: In January, it seemed every analyst in town was telling us to fill our boots with euros. Since then it has been all one way in the wrong direction: German politicians demand interest rate cuts; sell the euro. War in the Balkans: sell the euro. Now the prospect of an interest rate cut in Euroland has provoked the standard reaction: sell the euro. Where are all the geniuses who were telling us in January to buy the euro? Crafting more drivel, no doubt.

Life is a cabaret: Paris rocked as JP Morgan threw a splendid party at the Musée des Arts Forains to honour those attending the Inter-American Development Bank annual meeting. There were expensive cigars, clowns and even a carousel. Could this be a sign that the party's back on for emerging markets? One cynic wasn't so sure: "It's hard to tell which are the clowns and which are the bankers," he said.

Online bankers: The introduction of e-mail at Coutts allows customers to send provocative messages to their managers. One customer, infuriated by reports that the bank had extended a £4m overdraft to the Queen Mother (right), received his comeuppance, however, when an e-mail whistled back insisting that there was "no truth at all" to the recent stories.



Licence to print money: Whoever said it was impossible to make money on the Internet? British physicist Laurence Godfrey has so far filed into highway libel actions against companies and individuals in the Australia, Canada, the United States, and New Zealand and his winnings are mounting. Now he has managed to persuade Mr Justice Morland to allow him to proceed against Demon Internet, which carried an allegedly libellous posting on an obscure Internet news group, falsely purporting to be from Godfrey himself. Upstanding though Godfrey certainly is, the decision opens the possibility for potential litigants to anonymously libel themselves, and then to turn around and sue every Internet service provider within reach of a writ.

canary@excite.co.uk

Paul Conroy
President,
Virgin Records, UK

If I had to pick out one individual who works for the entire industry, it would have to be John Deacon, the director-general of the BPI. He's always working for the overall good of every company. He's not in the most glamorous end of the business, but does his job with style and grace.

John has achieved an enormous amount over the years, in particular his work with the Government. But the record industry has many talented people. I really admire the Artist & Repertoire people who discover and make records and am extremely lucky to have two such individuals within the Virgin organisation in Ashley Newton and David Boyd.

Richard Griffiths
Chairman
BMG Entertainment
International, UK and Ireland

The music industry is becoming increasingly more competitive as a business. These days to be an outstanding leader in music, you not only have to have the ability to spot talent, and develop and manage the artists you sign, but you also need to be a savvy business person. EMI's Ken Berry is someone I admire for his ability to combine a charismatic and personal touch with his artists with a keenly astute business sense.

He's a "babyfaced killer" negotiator, and someone who is willing to put his neck on the line for something he believes in. Two of his best moves in the last few years were to sign Janet Jackson and the Rolling Stones. This business is about taking risks and being decisive about what you believe in.

As a manager, Ken trusts his people and is very good about letting them get on with their jobs. Additionally, I admire the fact that his wine cellar is even better than mine.

Paul Birch
Managing Director,
Revolver Music

A MAN in the industry I very much admire is Tony Wadsworth of EMI. He is a very moderate chap and a negotiator with a light touch. There are some difficult issues which crop up in music which can bring companies into confrontation so, obviously, his light touch is a good thing.

Paul Burger should be mentioned purely because he brought Céline Dion to the world. And also because he's an extraordinary man. One day he's bound to become the boss of Sony Worldwide. He's not at all showy and has a conservative manner. I think he'll prove to be a long-distance runner.

Finally, I'd like to mention Rob Dickens who has progressed from the bottom to the top. He was a firm hand at Warners when it needed it and is now chairman of BPI. About two weeks ago set up his own label - Instant Karma.

He handles the difficult issues with judgement and reason. It may seem like the entertainment business is all fun, but there are constantly knives at our backs. He manages to work through the chaos with dignity and humour. The one quality these three all have in common is vision. That's the most difficult commodity to both find and retain.



Rob Dickens: The former head of Warners, who set up his own label, Instant Karma, earlier this month.

Sean O'Brien
Chairman,
Telstar

The man in the industry who particularly stands out for me is Nick Phillips of Warner Music. In music industry terms, at 35 years old he's very young to be such a high-profile executive, but I think that he's heading into a new school of record executives. His open style of management is vastly different from that of the old school which tended to be far more autocratic. His lack of ego is refreshing in our particular arena and also, I think, endears him both to his colleagues and competitors. He is a very clear thinker who rarely shoots from the hip and is a considered operator which is important in this fast-moving business. You'd expect anyone successful in the music business to have an astute musical brain

which, indeed, Nick has but what marks him out particularly, as I said, is his laid back style. For me, he heralds a whole new era of executives.

Jeremy Pearce
Chief Executive
V2 Music Group

The apparently free-wheeling music business is actually dominated by the five major record companies - big businesses answerable to shareholders and therefore employing corporate administrators as chief executives. Fortunately this leaves a niche for independent companies like V2 which can make up in creativity what they lack in financial power. Although he recently tried to pinch one of V2's key people, I still believe the best music executive in the major sphere is my old boss, Jorgen Larsen, who

has the biggest job in the music business, chairman of Universal Music International. Universal is the world's largest music company since its takeover of PolyGram last year. To satisfactorily combine the two companies' cultures and rosters of artists is probably an impossible task, but Jorgen is the best person to have a crack at it, being not only a superb polyglot business administrator with international perspective, but also someone who understands music and has respect for his subordinates.

The most accomplished leader in the UK independent sphere has to be Martin Mills of Beggars Banquet, who has experience of the entire music business and would grace any major record company, but has always chosen to remain independent. He has recently been instru-

mental in establishing the indie's representative body, AIM. The greatest ever record company boss is Berry Gordy Junior, who started his career as songwriter for Jackie Wilson but went on to establish the finest independent record company of them all, Tamla Motown, at one time the world's largest black-owned corporation, the like of which won't be seen again.

Alan McGee
Chairman,
Creation Records

Were I to have to choose the people I admire most in the music industry, I would choose the ones who possessed a relentless vision of music and the sub-culture from which it grows and is nurtured. But I'd rather not spare any thoughts for the music industry really. It de-

presses me. However, there is character who impresses me immensely: Lincoln Ellas from So So. He's a black guy and has an incredibly well considering music business tends to be both racist and racist. It's incredibly hard anyone to make their mark a times it seems to be run by pu schoolboys. However, Lincoln because ultimately you're judge who you sign and whether you records. It's a business in which hard to be consistent and yet coin is. Lincoln's genius lies in complete love of music.

John Kennedy
Chairman and Chief Executive
Universal Music UK Ltd

One man I particularly admire in business is Rob Dickens who been chairman of Warner and is chairman of Instant Karma, who has only been in existence for a few weeks. He has ended up: highly regarded senior player in record industry which I would is an ageist one. He's shown you stay young and that age isn't r vant and that such a broad range experience can only be a plus. best use he's put his experience is as chairman of BPI where I shown a level of professionalism be proud of. Certainly I am hat that there will be a slight resq from his direction while he builds his new company.

Alan McGee of Creation is a v respected player in the indepen sector of the industry. He's got tense entrepreneurial skills who have enabled him to build up l company from zero with tens pounds rather than millions to wh is now a company with an impti sive empathy with its artists. And d livering to us in Oasis one of the mo significant Brit bands for a long tme just when we needed a shake-up.

Tony Wadsworth

President and Chief Executive
EMI Records Group UK
To paraphrase the Clash, a lot what we do is "turning rebellion in money". From a business point view, I admire executives who can build up a business and manage the commercial aspects of the job, while protecting, preserving and promoting the vision and integrity of artist - like Chris Blackwell of Island Records and Bob Marley, Ahmet Ertegun with Atlantic Records.

There are also people who managed to do that successfully with the context of a larger organisation such as John Hammond at Columbia Records and George Martin Parlophone. As the business goes into a few multinationals, we all learn a lot from their example. I think Ken Berry of EMI Records manages to cultivate creative freedom within a large organisation.

At its worst, the business seems to be a collection of opportunists - record company, manager, lawyer, retailer, etc. It works best when there is a shared purpose, teamwork and respect. The artists manager or representative can be crucial in helping happen, so I have huge respect for Roger Davies who manages this across a host of major acts like Tina Turner, Janet Jackson, Cocker, M People and many others.

INTERVIEW
SALLY CHATFIELD

BOOK OF THE WEEK

A vital survival guide for managers

IT IS bizarre reviewing a book by one of my larger competitors. But it is difficult to refuse an early opportunity to read the scripts of a truly remarkable entrepreneur.

Thanks Michael, about time too. This is the book the computer industry has been longing for, to try to establish just how you did it.

To my pleasant surprise the book went further than just detailing how Dell has achieved such meteoric growth. It is what I believe an honest account of Michael Dell's business philosophy. Anyone buying the book as a history lesson might be a little disappointed.

It's not Michael Dell's memoirs, nor a detailed account of events at Dell Corporation. Instead it is a solid management survival guide, full of tips and advice based on Dell's approach and culture. I found it practical and useful. I would challenge any self-propelled business person not

Direct from Dell
by Michael Dell
(HarperCollins, £19.99)

to derive useful lessons from it. The book divided into two sections, and an easy read. It is not full of technical jargon or industry-speak and you won't need to call any computer technical support lines, to be put on hold for hours, just to find out the meaning of yet another industry TLA (three letter acronym).

In the first section Michael describes the growth of Dell from the cradle to a \$18bn juggernaut. But rather than detail the growth purely for the interest of business historians, he uses each step to pass on a wealth of business advice. It is not simply a case of "I did this" and "We did that", it is more of "We did this and what we learnt was ...".

I found his open writing style had me glued to every page and on many occasions



I found myself jotting ideas in my diary with a view to instigating them in my business.

The second section is a collection of Dell's viewpoints and techniques for building partnerships with his employees, customers and suppliers. I found this section very interesting and couldn't agree more with the majority of the content. In particular, two things struck a chord,

firstly the importance of information flow through a business, and secondly, how Michael Dell is using the Internet not just as a sales vehicle but to conduct customer surveys.

In every business book I read, I always try to find the one sentence or paragraph that really stimulates me to change or challenge something I do in my own organisation or one I can bring up as a topic in management meetings. This book presented me with dozens of topics.

Three useful subjects covered in the book are:
■ Keep it simple, complexity kills;
■ You have to constantly question everything you do, and
■ You need to engender a sense of personal investment in all of your employees.

I also found a great analogy to help explain how the Internet fits into the bigger picture with customers. The Internet is not a substitute for

a live salesperson, he writes, but adds that it does augment the sales rep's functions.

"The relationship is similar to that between a customer and a bank. For major transactions, customers want to talk to a real person: other times, they're happy to use an ATM." I find little more interesting and stimulating than to read books by authors who have themselves been successful in business.

Sure, you can glean information from authors who are great strategists and theorists, but unless they have experienced the "doing it", their ideas and viewpoints lack both passion and depth. If you also judge the quality of a business book from how useful it is, I am sure that you will find *Direct from Dell* has you scribbling down notes from cover to cover.

STEVE BENNETT

The reviewer is the founder of Software Warehouse

MY FAVOURITE RESTAURANT

Too good for business

CLIFF STANFORD first went to La Tante Claire before he founded Demon Internet in 1992 with just £20,000 of start-up capital. "It was a real splash-out," he says. "I wanted to treat some friends to what I considered to be a meal in the best restaurant there was."

A year on from having sold Demon for £66m, his visits to the traditional French restaurant remain occasional.

It gets booked up far too early for him to be able to plan more than a once-a-year visit there from his home in Brussels. "And frankly," he adds, "it's far too expensive and far too nice to take business people to."

"You're so concentrating on the food and its spectacular presentation that you probably wouldn't get any business done."

Not only this, but but he finds the intimate atmosphere is not conducive to confidential business talk. "Some



of the customers - and this is what is really special about Tante Claire - will lean over and tell you, 'I've just had such-and-such and it was absolutely wonderful'."

Stuffed pigs' trotters remain one of Stanford's enduring memories of dining at the 23-year-old restaurant, which moved from its former home in Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, to space in the

Berkeley Hotel last year. Though trotters are something given away in many butchers' shops, he says, the particular trotters were "phenomenally good".

The 44-year-old entrepreneur who now concentrates his energies on Redbus investment, the seed-capital company he founded after selling Demon, says Tante Claire's waiters are particularly helpful, describing dishes in detail and always encouraging customers to perimert.

The menu he adds, has been different each time has visited - but it is always spectacular.

As he says: "It's more of eating experience than place you go when you're hungry."

NAOMI MARF

La Tante Claire, Berkeley Hotel, Wilton Place, London SW1 (Telephone 0171-876 2003)

Stock-taking time for the Pep phenomenon

WITH THE annual PEP season drawing to its normal, frantic last-minute rush, it seems a good moment to stop and make some observations about the whole phenomenon.

It is fair to say, I think, that nobody at the time the first PEP was launched in 1986 could have foreseen quite how successful the phenomenon would prove to be.

As Nigel Lawson makes clear in his memoirs, his motive in introducing PEPs as Chancellor was to encourage direct investment by individuals in UK company shares. He was not sure whether they would help to boost the country's savings rate, or merely move money from one home (such as National Savings) to another.

As it happens, PEPs have done little to promote direct investment in equities: single-company and self-managed PEPs remain but a small part of the overall PEP market. Instead, after a shaky start, what PEPs have proved to be is a

means by which the unit trust business has succeeded in reinventing itself, beyond its wildest possible dreams.

Most of the huge flow of funds which have poured into PEPs in recent years has gone into unit trusts. Investment trusts have also benefited, but to a lesser extent. Other beneficiaries of the PEP business include IFAs (many of whom have grown fat on the back of PEP commissions) and the financial press, which has enjoyed the fruits of the heavy advertising which now routinely accompanies the end of the PEPs season.

So it is fair to say that PEPs have been a powerful factor in changing the landscape of the personal financial business, but not quite in the way that was originally intended.

As the PEP business has coincided with one of the greatest bull markets of all time on the stock market, it is impossible to deny that the net impact on many ordinary in-

vestors has been both positive and enduring. What it demonstrates also is that when it comes to savings most people rightly like to keep things simple. They like the tax benefits of PEPs, of course, but what their behaviour over the last 13 years shows also, I suspect, is that they also like two other things.

One is a freedom from hassle. One reason why most people prefer to hold shares through the expensive medium of a unit trust rather than some more cost-effective alternative is that they simply cannot be bothered with all the hassle of owning shares directly.

They are happy to pay over the odds for the privilege of having most of the hard work done for them. (This may also explain the fact that so many prefer to wait until the very last minute before doing anything about their annual tax-free allowance.)

The second thing is that most people still prefer to be sold



JONATHAN DAVIS

The impact on many ordinary investors has been both positive and enduring

something rather than buy it themselves. Most people still don't fully realise quite how expensive unit trusts are.

Even since the introduction of key features documents, with their accompanying reduction in yield tables, it is remarkable how resilient sales of some of the most expensive unit trusts have been. There is also a clear correlation between recent performance and sales figures, as those with off periods in recent performance (such as M&G and apparently more recently Schroders and Perpetual) can testify to their cost.

Given that past performance is such an unreliable guide to future performance, it is clear that what many people are signalling is that they are simply not confident enough to make their own decisions.

They are happy to be guided by IFAs in their choice of PEPs, despite the evident distortions introduced by the commission system, and

happy also to take on trust the implied claims (all based on past performance) which they read about in the advertising. I don't think anyone could foresee the emergence of brands of this kind when the PEP business started. At a deeper level, what this behaviour points to is a continuing lack of education in the basics of money and financial planning.

This is what lies behind the Government's noble intentions in trying to promote wider understanding of financial issues. It is also trying to help savers help themselves with its Cost Access and Terms (CAT) standards for the new ISAs which will replace PEPs next year and with its proposals for cheap stakeholder pensions. Nobody can take issue with its diagnosis of the problem nor, I am sure, with the sincerity of its objectives.

The history of PEPs is a salutary warning, however, that things rarely go according to plan when governments start trying to muck

around with the way that the market works. This Government has not got off to the best of starts: its proposals for ISAs are not very well thought out.

They are too complicated and open to an obvious criticism, which is: "Why muck around with the PEP formula when it has clearly been shown to be what the market wants?" The cynical answer, which is that every new government prefers to have its own, better mousetrap, is probably painfully near the mark.

What we have to wait to see now is whether the industry is prepared to pick up the ISA ball and run with it. By insisting on low charges for its CAT standard, the Government is posing a direct threat to the profitability of the business.

It will be interesting to see how many firms are confident enough in their brands to bypass the CAT standard - and how many of their customers will go with them in that case.

Should you invest in... clothing retailers?

BY KIERON ROOT

INVESTORS WHO adopt the principle that it makes sense to invest in the providers of products and services that they see people actually buying on the high street will at present be avoiding the clothing retailers. For this group of companies has under-performed markedly over recent months, primarily as a result of depressed levels of spending on the high street.

"The market has not been very good over the past six months or so," reports Rowan Morgan, a retail analyst at stockbrokers Teather & Greenwood.

"This is partly because consumer spending is low and partly because there is not enough differentiation between the clothing retailers. They have been concentrating on the safe, middle ground."

There remains, however, a place for clothing retailers within a portfolio, according to David Thornton, head of UK investment at Witan Investment Trust. "We have been emphasising general retailing for some time and have big holdings in Next and Debenhams," he points out. "However, you can't escape the fact that general retailing has been beaten up very badly over the last year, for obvious reasons. There has been a slow-down in the economy, with a generally low-inflation environment and tight-fisted consumers."

Clothing retailers are, indeed, dependent on the willingness of consumers to keep buying their clothes and this demand has been sorely lacking in recent months, leading to a classic case of over-supply. "The problem is that there is too much retail space," says Rowan Morgan. "At a time when there is low inflation, so prices have been at best flat, or even slightly down. It is going to remain a highly competitive market."

Dominating the sector is the fate of Marks & Spencer, for years a core holding in many a private investor's

portfolio. "The problems at Marks & Spencer are the big issue," Mr Morgan adds. "How Marks repositions itself, in terms of brand, quality and price, is the key factor. The company has diversified - 40 per cent of its UK business is now food retailing - but the food side slowed down in advance of the rest of the business. The question is, at what point will Marks start to recover?"

"Some companies have screwed up, like Marks & Spencer, while others have tripped up like Next," opines David Thornton. "But the overall result is that there has been a lot of doom and gloom around. This has resulted in a considerable de-rating among these companies."

Such a de-rating, of course, creates opportunities. "We have adopted the view that we can see how things are going to improve," Mr Thornton adds. "For some time, we have been firm believers in a soft landing for the economy, and the rest of the market is beginning to take this on board. We think there is some good value to be had, predicated on the basis that the consumer, having been out of the market for some time, is now coming back."

Stock selection, however, is the key. "We remain quite selective in this area," he points out, using the example of two of the bigger clothing retailers, Next and Arcadia Group, to illustrate the point. "Next has been a very successful company that has been very focused on one brand, with excellent long-term volumes. One of the key factors has been the way it has managed its inventory over the years, yet even Next got a season's ordering wrong last year."

The situation with Arcadia is that, despite its size, it does not have the same strengths of brand and management as Next. "Arcadia has improved," says Mr Thornton. "But



The problems at Marks & Spencer - once a core holding for private investors - have highlighted difficulties in a sector suffering from over-capacity David Rose

historically it has been in a situation where it has had to discount to get higher volumes and, in doing so, its margins have been squeezed. Its brands are less strong than Next's, and it is dependent on the health of consumer spending."

Rowan Morgan suggests that while Arcadia has been suffering from the general lack of demand from consumers, Debenhams has been one of the more successful retailers while Next has been benefiting from the problems at M&S. "Debenhams has done rather

better than the others with its emphasis on exclusive brands," he says. "And Next, which recovered from a blip in 1997, is doing very well now. When Marks comes back, Next will find life more difficult."

Concentration is on the larger stocks, since smaller clothing retailers are even more at the mercy of consumer confidence.

"Among the smaller companies, Oasis Stores should carry on quite well, but I think that clothing retailers generally are going to have a pretty poor summer, unless we get

some stonking good weather," Mr Morgan says. But there is a reasonable degree of confidence that sales volume will pick up towards the end of the year as the millennium party season starts.

"Further out, I think that during the third quarter of this year, and more especially the fourth quarter, we will probably see sales improve as consumers start spending more," he adds.

The consensus view of the sector is that things will get better as consumer spending improves, but that

this will not necessarily mean a bonanza for all clothing retailers. "We are in an improving retail environment, and things have got better in recent months," David Thornton confirms, "but the tide might not be strong enough to raise all boats. We continue to place a premium on management and the brands. You have to be selective, so it is Next and Debenhams over Marks and Storehouse at the moment."

Kieron Root is the editor of The Investor

SHAREWATCH

BUY

Although GKN should see a slow-down in their core automotive division, the stock's growth profile can ride on the back of the continued success of the industrial services division and positive news from the aerospace and special vehicle division, says BT Alex Brown, which has upgraded the shares (95p) to a buy. The stock justifies a target share price of £11, the broker adds. Improving prospects for the industry, sustained growth in earnings and a relatively modest rating make Northern Leisure shares (134p) are very attractive, argues Teather & Greenwood. The market for nightclubs is very fragmented, giving it ample scope to grow at the rate of around 15 sites a year; predominantly purchased from independent operators. Each acquisition costs £1.5-£2m, a 30 per cent return is targeted and contribution to pre-tax profits from a new site is around £200,000, adds TG.

SELL

Avoid Cortec (21p), says Sutherland, which points out that an independent report into its scientific programmes is due shortly. The biotech company commissioned the report last year after it announced its three lead programmes were not as advanced as had been indicated, and also undertook a review of its systems and pipeline to try to reduce cashburn itself.

HOLD

South African Breweries 20 per cent-plus outperformance meant that the shares (70p) have exceeded the initial price objective of 50p, says Merrill Lynch, which has now cut its intermediate recommendation to neutral.

You can bank on reaping the rewards of conversion

AS MEMBERS of two more building societies are urged by their directors not to force them to face the rigours of a stock market quotation, it is, perhaps, worth looking at the rewards of those who have voted for conversion.

So far five building societies have become mortgage banks quoted on the stock market. Alliance & Leicester, Halifax, Northern Rock and Woolwich abandoned mutualism in favour of becoming public companies with shareholders instead of members in the past couple of years. Abbey National is the granddaddy of the converters - electing to become a stock market company in 1989.

Many investors cashed in when the shares were floated. Those who have not fared too badly in share price terms and have reaped the rewards of increasing dividends plus special payments.

Abbey gave its members 100 free shares and sold them others at 130p a time. So a price of 1,278p with

a 1,358p peak is not a bad reward for ten years' dedication to the former building society.

Alliance arrived at around 550p, has been as high as 964p and, at the time of writing, resides at 855p. Halifax started near 730p, went to 977p and is now 775.5p. Northern Rock has moved from 450p to hit 668.5p and is now 511p. Woolwich's journey has been from near 300p to just above 400p. The shares are now resting at 387.5p.

Abbey's performance supports my advice that an investor will not come to much harm by giving a sound blue chip a long run. After all, that is the philosophy of most fund managers.

The others which opted for demutualisation have, quite clearly, not been around long enough to make any contribution to the long-term argument for blue chips. Still they have, in varying degrees, provided those prepared to run the risks of the share market with useful gains.



DEREK PAIN

The Halifax reorganisation has come in for some ill-considered criticism. With its coffers overflowing, it is handing out 62p a share, reducing the number of shares in issue by killing off three out of every 40 and paying a 13.5p dividend. It has also indulged in a £1bn share buy-back which has yet, however, to pro-

vide much in the way of tangible benefits to private shareholders.

The five mortgage banks will also feature in the consolidation of the financial industry. Many are convinced it will not be long before a big deal materialises.

At times the speculation has been intense - although a mega deal is still awaited. Rumours have already linked Abbey and Halifax with National Westminster Bank and/or Barclays and Lloyds TSB is piling up cash and will need to make a predatory strike shortly. The merger fever which has broken out among continental banks will merely add flame to the smouldering fires of corporate activity.

Of course, cash rewards are only part of the conversion argument. Certainly shareholders fare better than members when it comes to totting up the lot.

Building societies promise many benefits from mutualism, such as cheaper mortgages and higher in-

terest rates. I find it surprising that these alleged rewards seem to have, in the main, materialised after the conversion bandwagon started to roll.

Those of us who obtained mortgages in the near mutual monopoly which existed in the 30 years before Abbey converted certainly saw little evidence of the "members first" attitude which is now, it seems, the theme which dominates a society's trading.

At present, two societies are under attack from the converters. Bradford & Bingley where 70 members are urging the switch, and Britannia, where the controversial and ubiquitous former builder Michael Hardern has popped up.

Britannia, probably because it is facing what it regards as the confining challenge of the eccentric, arch carpet-bagger Hardern, has adopted a relatively measured, unruffled but one-sided approach in its circular to members. Still, Britannia

has at least allowed Hardern to stand for election as a director - others refused.

Bradford & Bingley has got itself into quite a tizzy and the presentation of some of its literature against the conversion proposal is astonishing.

Its voting form is remorselessly geared to encouraging a "No" vote and members are offered the following loaded resolution: "Bradford & Bingley should remain a mutual building society working in the best interests of its members both now and in the future."

It is surprising that such a partisan voting form is permitted in these politically correct days when any hint of bias is jumped upon.

I would, however, be surprised if either society converts. But quite clearly the pressure is mounting on the mutuals which seem to be adopting some odd tactics in their struggle to avoid the dreaded plc status.

STOCKBROKING ON THE INTERNET

Going for brokerage in cyberspace

YOU MAY be among the thousands seduced by Apple's advertising into buying an iMac in five fruity flavours, or perhaps you have purchased one of any number of PC clones in a shade of beige. No matter. Virtually all the personal computers being sold come with Internet access as part of the package, including modem and software.

So you have Internet access and you are ready to invest. Your choice of stockbroker may be limited but how do you choose which to use? Remember, all the online dealing services available are execution-only, which means that what you choose to buy and sell and when you choose to buy and sell it is up to you alone.

Among US broking houses, cheap online deals were pioneered by E-Trade five years ago. It charges a minimum of \$14.95 for trades in shares listed on the New York Stock Exchange and \$19.95 for over-the-counter shares on Nasdaq. But E-Trade is not the cheapest. Ameritrade's prices start at \$8 a deal and Suretrade at \$7.95.

Trading on the Internet in the UK is not as price-competitive. Competition among brokerages is limited and stamp duty of 0.5 per cent is also payable on dealings. In some cases Internet deals are not even cheaper than alternative methods, specifically trading over the telephone. But it can be a convenient way of managing a portfolio of investments.

Charles Schwab Europe, has moved into online electronic trading. Guy Knight, vice-president of European marketing, said: "UK brokers have already chased each other down ahead of automation. This is a way of maintaining those low prices - it is not going to get exceptionally cheaper."

On the surface, the lowest price on offer to UK customers is offered by Cave & Sons at 25 plus 1 per cent up to a deal value of £5,000. But this is an e-mail service only. It competes with Xest, James Brearley and Fastrade. Their minimum dealing charges are £20, £20 and £15 respectively. You may specify a limit price at which you wish to deal with these services, to make sure you don't end up buying or selling at more than you wish to pay or less than you wish to get.

But Xest accepts limit orders only on a "fill or kill" basis. That is

BY ROBIN AMLOT

to say, if the trade cannot be carried out immediately at the price specified it is cancelled. Brearley and Fastrade accept limit orders for the day before cancelling them if they are unable to fulfil the trade.

Stocktrade, a division of the Edinburgh-based stockbroker Brewin Dolphin Securities, was the first to announce a real-time service last December.

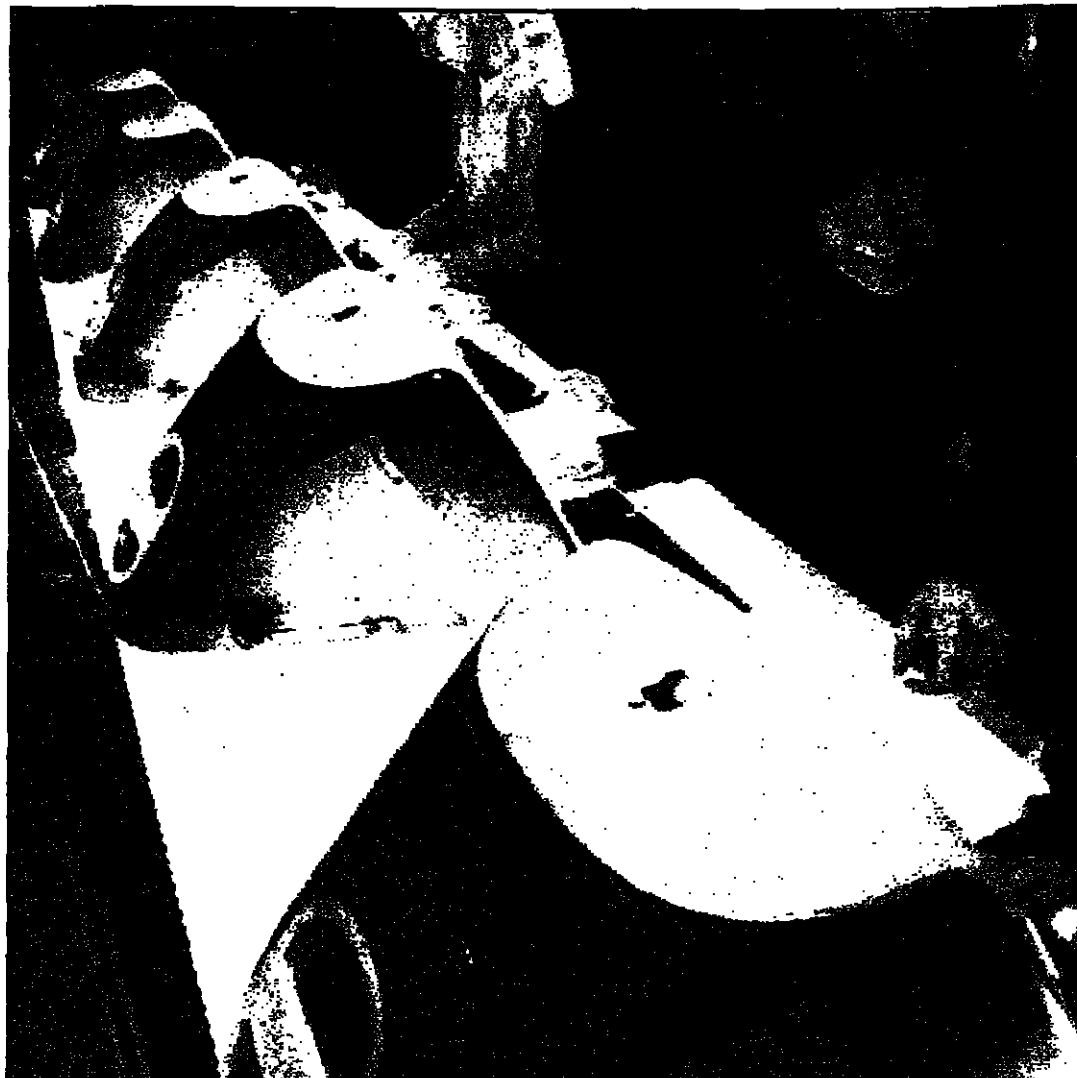
The systems behind Stocktrade were developed with assistance from Interactive Investor. The chair, Sherry Leigh Coutu, described real-time trading as "a significant move towards a democratic marketplace, giving private investors an equal footing with the institutions and making the market healthier for all".

It takes about two weeks to set up an account with Stocktrade. Once registered, you pay £25 per trade up to a value of £12,500. You also pay an annual Crest Sponsored Membership service charge of £25. Trades are settled on a T+1 basis, which means you take delivery of the shares or the cash is put into your account the day after you deal. When you trade you will be given 15 seconds to accept the price offered before the quote lapses.

Charles Schwab Europe offers two services, Frequent Traders Club and Market Master. The Frequent Traders Club has a £15 connection fee and costs £80 a year in "membership" but each trade thereafter is a flat £19.50 no matter the size of the transaction. There is a £25 one-off connection fee but no annual subscription charge for Market Master and trading costs start at a minimum of £15 or 0.9 per cent on deals up to £2,500.

Barclays Stockbrokers' service expects to have more than 10,000 customers before the end of 1999. It offers the first online service which does not require you to hold your shares via a nominee account.

Phillip Bungey, research and development Director of Barclays Stockbrokers, says: "Independent research has shown that the majority of investors still prefer to deal with certificates than with a nominee so we have responded to this demand by providing the UK's first cer-



Apple's iMac, like virtually all new personal computers, comes with Internet access as part of the package to attract online investors

Chiaki Tsukumi/AP

tificated Internet dealing service."

You also have just 15 seconds with Barclays Stockbrokers in which to accept or reject a price quote. The minimum dealing cost is £17.50 or 1.5 per cent on trades under £5,000.

The firm is also trumpeting its Price Improver system, introduced in November, which it claims should improve the price you get as buyer or seller. Philip Bungey says: "Via our system, all the main market makers in any given share are scanned to ensure the best price at any given time. Other online services link to only one market-maker and we have proved that 50 per cent of the time our system will ensure a

better price." Signing up to the Stocktrade or Charles Schwab Europe's service involves sending them an e-mail from their website. They will send you a full information pack by return via the Royal Mail.

You are required to fill in and return the forms with any fees required and the funds needed to open your trading account, and you will be supplied with an access password.

Barclays Stockbrokers is touting its service as the easiest to join with free registration and it takes five minutes for the online credit check. Barclays Stockbrokers' on-screen application form asks for address, credit and bank account details.

What you put in is checked electronically with your bank and against the voter roll to make sure you are who you say you are. Barclays is prepared to offer an immediate trading facility of up to £7,500.

In the fourth quarter of 1998, E-Trade was rated as the world's top online investing site by financial researchers from the Lafferty Group in its web-based Financial Services Report.

But, in February, E-Trade suffered the largest number of temporary breakdowns, which have affected several US online brokerages, leaving many customers unable to trade for some days.

HOW TO TRADE ON THE NET

US Broker	Minimum Dealing Cost	Website
E-Trade	\$14.95	www.etrade.com
Ameritrade	\$8.00	www.ameritrade.com
Suretrade	\$7.95	www.suretrade.com
Online Broker & Website	Dealing Costs: £1,000 trade* £17.50	Dealing Costs: £5,000 trade* £40
Barclays Stockbrokers		
www.barclays-stockbrokers.co.uk		
Charles Schwab		
www.schwab-worldwide.com/Worldwide/Europe/		
Frequent Traders Club	£19.50	£19.50
Market Master	£15.00	£43.75
Stocktrade	£25.00	£25.00
www.stocktrade.co.uk		
1. Annual subscription £60 and connection charge £15. 2. No annual subscription, connection charge £25. 3. Annual subscription £25.		
*Stamp duty is payable on all share purchases at the rate of 0.5%.		

For income, it pays to shop around

BY ANDREW COUCHMAN

SELECTING AN investment for income is a bit like taking the children shopping at a supermarket - shelves full of mouth-watering goodies that junior insists on having, when you know that an apple is healthier.

In investments, having too much money on deposit can also lead to problems with the pounds in the future - but in this case having too few rather than too many.

Those attractive interest rates may look more tempting than the lower rates offered by some other investments but what will they do in the future? A basket of goods priced at £1 in 1948 would now cost nearly £20, so investing for the long-term should involve looking out for capital, not just income.

Not that there is anything inherently wrong with having money on deposit. Emergency funds should be held on deposit and, if you switched money out of the equity markets into cash earlier this year, you would have beaten most investments over that time. Over the long-term, though, other investments should do better.

We asked five leading independent financial advisers for their views.

James Bruce, of Colchester-based Corporate & Personal Planning, says timescale is key to many investment decisions. If you have 20 years until you retire, you may have little need for income now, so your portfolio may consist largely of good-quality unit trusts investing in UK shares, perhaps split between tracker funds and actively managed funds.

If, however, you need access to your cash or will do so soon, your

money is likely to be on deposit. Only when you can take at least a three-to-five-year view should you look for capital growth, Mr Bruce advises. Taking a short-term view, the Moneyfacts faxback service provides a list of current top rates.

Mark Dampier, of Churchill Investments, based just outside Bristol, says: "Base rates could fall to 5 per cent or below over the next 12 months. With the best deposit rates at around 6 per cent now, we can expect to see top rates fall to about 4.5 to 5 per cent in the near future. So investors should start to plan for this now and not wait until it happens."

If you need a yield of more than 9 per cent, Mr Dampier's tip is to look at split-income shares of investment trusts. These are likely to involve a capital loss on redemption but the Exeter High Income Unit Trust yields around 9.24 per cent, can be put into a PEP now or an ISA after 5 April, and has capital growth potential.

Slightly lower yields come from the M&G High Yield Corporate Bond, at 8.5 per cent. Aberdeen High Yield Bond at 9 per cent and Aberdeen Fixed Interest yielding 8 per cent. If you are looking for an income of between 5 and 8 per cent, Mr Dampier likes the look of corporate bonds, especially Credit Suisse Monthly Corporate Bond, yielding 6.7 per cent and CGU Monthly Income Plus at 7 per cent. With-profit bonds are also on the agenda, especially if withdrawals are

kept to 5 per cent. Scottish Widows is one he fancies.

David Burran, of the Cheltenham-based Warwick Butchart Associates, says that the cautious investor could look at the Fleming Save & Prosper Extra Income fund, again ISA-able. This balanced fund invests 55 per cent in mainly blue-chip shares, 40 per cent in government and corporate bonds and 5 per cent in cash. It at present yields 4.7 per cent.

What about guaranteed income bonds, now offered by a number of insurance companies, can they offer an alternative to equity-based investments? Up to a point they can, says Danby Bloch, of the London adviser Raymond Godfrey and Partners. There are two types of such bonds. The first simply pays out a fixed income from one to five years, and repays your capital at the end of the term. Returns are not very exciting but, if interest rates do fall, as many now expect, they could look attractive.

The second type is more complex but offers a much higher return. Scottish Life pays an "income" of 9 per cent a year for five and a half years. The downside is that your capital is only returned if the average of the FTSE and Swiss stock markets rises by, on average, 5.85 per cent a year.

Mr Bloch says he is not comfortable with such plans, preferring an open-ended investment and more flexibility. The bonds are popular though with many people but you are gambling on what stock markets will do over the next few years.

Amanda Davidson, of the London financial advisers Holden Meehan,



The sweetest-looking investments may not always be the healthiest for income in the long term

Edward Webb

suggests another option for the investor looking for income. If you have used up your PEP and Tessa allowances, or you are unable to invest in the next few days, you could consider an offshore investment bond.

"There is nothing illegal about offshore bonds, they are just another financial investment," she says. Many offshore insurers are subsidiaries of well-known UK firms.

The higher-rate taxpayer gets the advantage of a tax-free roll-up and can take out 5 per cent of their investment every year for 20 years with no immediate tax liability. The trick is to encash such bonds in a tax year when your income is very low as you must pay tax on all gains at your then highest tax rate.

Charges are comparable with mainland insurers at 5 to 6 per cent for the bid/offer spread and an annual management charge of 1 to 1.5

per cent. Offshore bonds are at the exotic end of financial services and do require expert advice both before investing and during the bond's life. The key with all such investment choices is to ensure that you look carefully at both the investment itself and at your own income needs both now and in the future.

Churchill Investments: 01934 844 444; Corporate & Personal Planning: 01206 53388; Holden Meehan: 0171-404 6442; Raymond Godfrey & Partners: 0171-250 0967; Warwick Butchart & Associates: 01242 534 144.

■ 'The Independent' has produced a free last-minute Guide to PEPs. The 28-page guide by personal finance editor Nic Cicutti also explains the new Individual Savings Account. The guide is sponsored by Scottish Widows Fund Management. For your free copy call 0345 678910.

ISAs are ready for take-off

BY NIC CICUTTI

FED UP WITH all the last-minute PEP hoopla, the endless exhortations to invest now before this wonderful tax break disappears for good? By the time you read this, it will be almost too late to start a PEP.

Not to worry - you can set up an Individual Savings Account (ISA) instead. As far as tax is concerned, the rules for ISAs are the same as those for PEPs: exemption from capital gains tax, freedom from income tax, but with the diminishing benefit of dividend tax credits, which drop to 10 per cent from April this year and are abolished in five years' time. Even so, investors seeking a first-time tax-free haven for their cash are best off looking at ISAs.

So what are the ISA investment rules? In 1999/2000, one may invest up to £7,000, and £5,000 a year in subsequent years. This compares with a maximum of £9,000 into regular and single-company PEPs, plus £9,000 into a Tessa over five years.

Permitted investments in an ISA will be far broader than under the old PEP/Tessa regime. PEP rules specify that up to £1,500 of the annual £9,000 allowance for a full PEP can go into "non-qualifying" funds. The rest must go into UK and European Union equities and bonds. ISAs will have up to three components: equity, cash and insurance. The equity part will be allowed to hold "any share traded on any recognised stock exchange anywhere in the world".

What this relaxation of the rules will allow is far wider choice of asset allocation. If you want to invest your whole annual allowance into,

say, an emerging markets fund, you will be free to do so.

Fund managers plan to take advantage of this rule change. While they will be offering in ISA form all the funds already available as PEPs, they will also be offering previously "unPEPable" funds too. Investec Guinness Flight, for example, is preparing to offer 14 funds, including its Global High Income fund - previously not even available as a non-qualifying PEP fund - through an ISA account. This invests in mainly Western government bonds.

Another important difference is that ISAs will be permitted to hold a far wider range of fixed interest securities such as UK and foreign corporate and government bonds. With the exception of UK gilts, all of these must have five years or more until maturity when bought into the ISA, but can be sold out of it at any time. Any gain on such a disposal will stay "inside" the account free of tax.

Over the shorter term, gilts, National Savings certificates and cash deposits with less than five years to maturity can be held in an ISA. One distinctive feature of ISAs will be their use of CATmarks. The aim of these is to ensure a "fair and reasonable deal".

Applied to the cash and insurance elements of ISAs the CATmarks will indicate low minimum premiums, few penalties, and surrender values reflecting the value underlying assets in an account.

MY BIGGEST MISTAKE: TIM TOZER

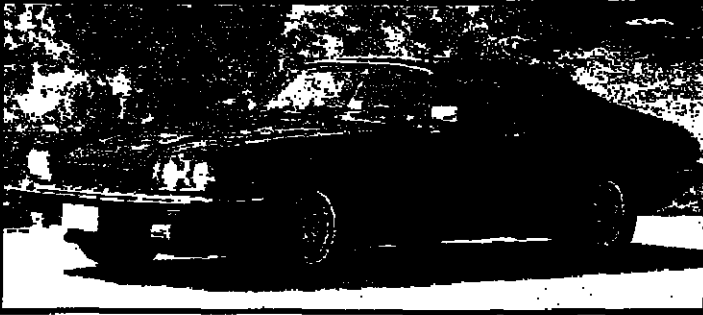
The Rottweilers made sure we never got the Jags back

MY BIGGEST mistake happened in Finland: the mistake I made was to let two cars go without letting the hard currency hit our bank account. The cars were a Jaguar XJS (right) and an XJ40 saloon, which would together retail at about £70,000.

It was the first business where I was the managing director, and my first overseas posting, and to be honest there was a level of naivety and trust - I had been there about four or five months and assumed I could take things at face value. Inevitably when selling cars, you were dealing

with some bad guys who wanted to pay you in cash. The paperwork had seemingly come in to us to indicate that hard currency had been lodged in a third-party bank, who were in the process of getting the money to our bank account. I let the cars go in good faith. It was an expensive learning curve.

We did hire a private investigator to find the cars, but he eventually saw the cars in a compound in Moscow, and his report said: "I am not going to go in and get the cars - there are lots of Rottweilers." We wrote them off, and it was a salutary



lesson, because it was a loss-making business at the time. It would have been easy to take from

that experience that the people I was selling to were not to be trusted. The real issue was that, within the

business, we didn't have a robust enough process by which decisions could be made in good business faith.

Tim Tozer, 39, spent 10 years with Rover before joining Inchcape. He left Chrysler France last January to join Mazda UK Ltd as managing director

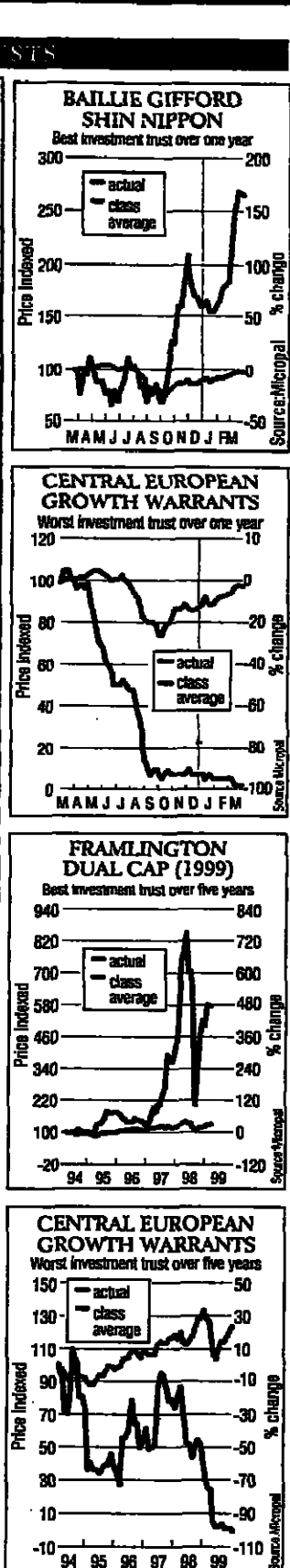
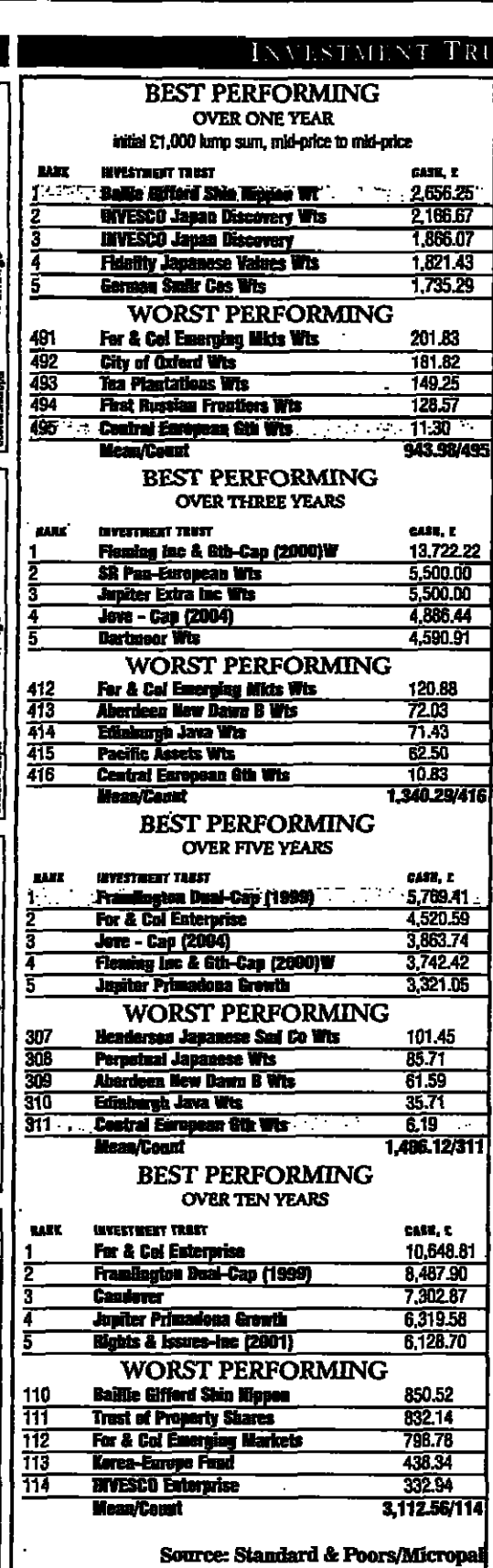
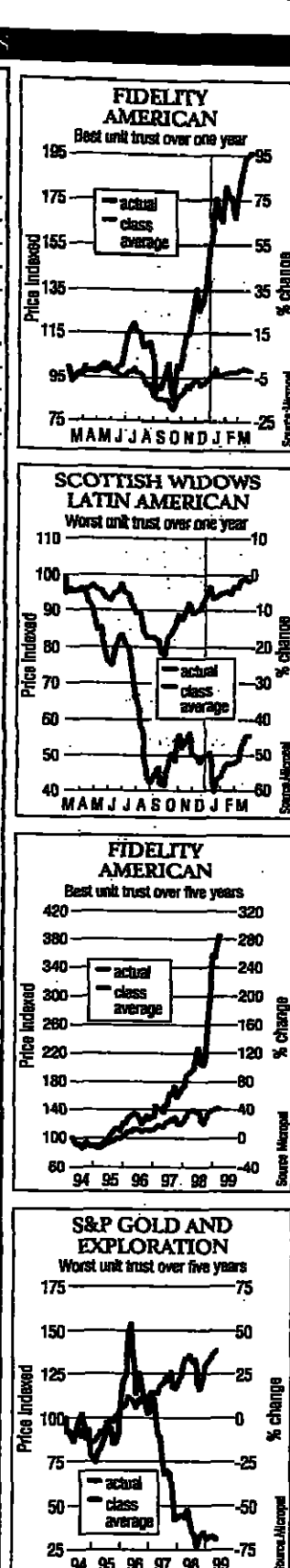
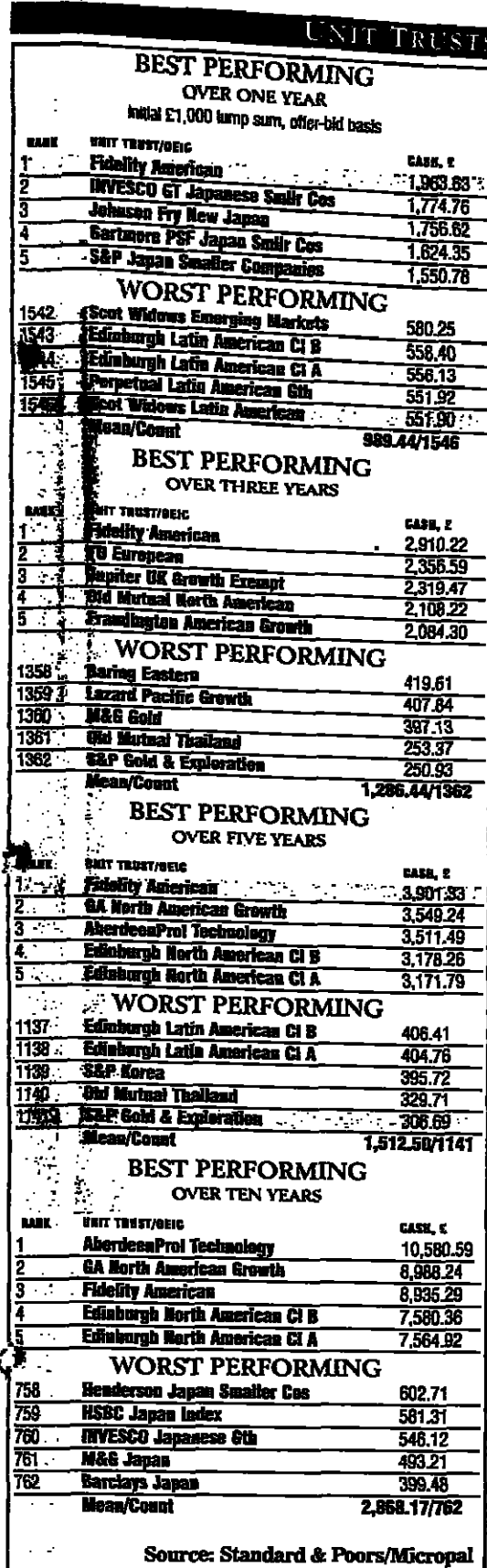
What I principally took from it was that at a cursory level, an MD could look at a piece of paper and seemingly make the right decision, without the absolute rigour of a process which would have prevented that paper getting to my desk without the money already being in the account.

It had a massive impact on me: it was a defining moment. It got me to focus on the fact that if you have solidity of process in a business, and if the detail is gone into - in the sense of the managing director having a prerogative to challenge detail where he wants to - then I think you

have a solid context for the management of a business against a consistent performance criteria.

If expectations are laid out in a controlled environment, we are better able to measure how the business is doing. You come to a platform where you can give individuals a clearer context to develop their own personalities and characters, to take responsibility to do their own thing within a process-oriented environment, and to come up with exceptions which might well be good ones as an alternative to the bedrock of process.

Chrysler UK Ltd



EUROPEAN FUNDS									
BEST PERFORMING UNIT TRUSTS									
Initial £1,000 lump sum, offer to bid basis									
ONE YEAR		FIVE YEARS							
RANK	EUROPEAN	CASH	EUROPEAN	CASH	RANK	EUROPEAN	CASH	RANK	EUROPEAN
1	Rising German Growth	1,267.86	TD European	2,950.57	1				
2	TD European	1,206.36	INVESTCO GT European Growth	2,732.33	2				
3	Gevett European Strategy	1,149.53	Carimore European Select Opps	2,694.82	3				
4	Murray European	1,111.26	Newton European	2,565.94	4				
5	INVESTCO GT European Growth	1,100.91	Friends Prov Euro Growth	2,545.88	5				
Mean/Count									

WORST PERFORMING UNIT TRUSTS									
Initial £1,000 lump sum, offer to bid basis									
ONE YEAR		FIVE YEARS							
RANK	EUROPEAN	CASH	EUROPEAN	CASH	RANK	EUROPEAN	CASH	RANK	EUROPEAN
127	Schroder European Smaller Cos	827.69	INVESTCO GT European Eqty & Bnd	1,504.10	103				
128	St James's PI Recovery	826.12	Schroder Inst European Sm Cos	1,434.47	109				
129	Old Mutual European	822.48	Stewart Inst Euro Smllr Cos	1,369.24	110				
130	Franklington Cents Smllr Cos	817.25	Baillie Gifford Euro Sm Cos	1,178.03	111				
131	Rising Europe Select	811.94	Franklington Centl Smllr Cos	1,150.67	112				
Mean/Count		981.02/131	Mean/Count			1,980.57/112			

BEST PERFORMING INVESTMENT TRUSTS									
Initial £1,000 lump sum, mid-price to mid-price									
ONE YEAR		FIVE YEARS							
RANK	EUROPEAN	CASH	OT EUROPEAN	CASH	RANK	EUROPEAN	CASH	RANK	EUROPEAN
1	German Smaller Cos	1,186.52	Charter European Trust	2,572.52	1				
2	Henderson Euroinvest Units	1,119.01	Carimore European	2,415.96	2				
3	Charter European Trust	1,104.02	Henderson Euroinvest Units	2,397.83	3				
4	Carimore European	1,062.52	TD European Growth	2,252.56	4				
5	Perpetual European	1,013.51	Fer & Col Euroinvest	1,912.15	5				
Mean/Count		973.39/15	Mean/Count			1,882.22/13			

WORST PERFORMING INVESTMENT TRUSTS									
Initial £1,000 lump sum, mid-price to mid-price									
ONE YEAR		FIVE YEARS							
RANK	EUROPEAN	CASH	EUROPEAN	CASH	RANK	EUROPEAN	CASH	RANK	EUROPEAN
11	Fleming Continental European	905.05	Martin Currie European	1,722.49	9				
12	European Assets (HS242)	891.11	Fleming Continental European	1,634.93	10				
13	Fidelity European Values	872.84	Fleming European Fledgling	1,377.88	11				
14	TD European Growth	858.78	German Smaller Cos	1,375.32	14				
15	Carimore Irish Smaller Cos	782.83	European Assets (HS242)	1,333.41	13				
Mean/Count		973.39/15	Mean/Count			1,582.22/13			

Source: Standard & Poors/Micropal

PERMANENT INTEREST-BEARING SHARES				
FUND	Coupon (gross, %)	MINIMUM (£)	PRICE (pence)	YIELD (gross, %)
Birmingham	9½	1,000	147	6.38
Bradford	11½	10,000	188	6.18
Bradford	13	10,000	209 5	6.21
Brixton	13	1,000	198	6.57
Coventry	12½	1,000	189 ¾	6.33
Leeds & Halifax	13½	1,000	205	5.52
Newcastle	10½	1,000	175	6.14
Newcastle	12½	1,000	206	6.13
Stopham	12½	1,000	214	6.02

PERPETUAL DEBENTURED BONDS				
FUND	Coupon (gross, %)	MINIMUM (£)	PRICE (pence)	YIELD (gross, %)
Cheltenham & Gloucester	11½	50,000	185 1¼	6.34
First Active	11½	10,000	159	7.39
Halifax	8½	50,000	133 1¼	6.57
Halifax	12	50,000	172 ¾	6.96
Halifax	13½	50,000	210	6.49
Arisland and West	13½	1,000	192	6.79
Northern Rock	12½	1,000	196	6.44

Source: Greenwich NatWest

BEST SAVINGS RATES

INSTANT ACCESS BANK ACCOUNTS

	TELEPHONE	ACCOUNT	AUTHORISE BY	DEPOSIT	INTEREST PAID	%	ANNUAL	YTD	INTEREST PAID
Tesco	0845 7104010	Tesco Savings	Instant	£1	4.50%	4.50%	Yy		
Woolwich	0800 222220	Card Saver	Instant	£50	4.75%	4.75%	Yy		
Windsor BS	0845 8006061	Access Saver	Instant	£100	4.75%	4.75%	Yy		
Truist's BS	01202 943550	Bullfinch	Instant	£500	4.30%	4.30%	1/2 Yy		

POSTAL/TELEPHONE ACCOUNTS - NO NOTICE

Cap	0845 8000292	Savings	Post/Phone	£1	6.00%	6.00%	Yy		
Virgin Direct	0845 6101020	Deposit	Telephone	£1	5.75%	5.75%	Yy		
San Bank	01438 744500	Direct Postal	Postal	£500	5.60%	5.60%	Yy		
First Active	0800 558844	Rate Tracker	Post/Phone	£1,000	5.56%	5.56%	Yy		

NOTICE ACCOUNTS AND BONDS

Yorkshire BS	0845 6008061	Notice Saver	30 Day	£100	5.80%	5.80%	Yy		
Chelsea BS	0800 272505	POST-tel 90	30 Day (P)	£5,000	5.25%	5.25%	Yy		
Scarborough BS	01723 500616	40 Day Access	40 Day	£1,000	5.95%	5.95%	Yy		
Manchester BS	0161 8338983	Prima	120 Day	£10,000	6.05%	6.05%	Yy		

CHEQUE ACCOUNTS

San Bank	01438 744505	RICA	None	£1,000	4.25%	4.25%	Yy		
ABC Bank	0181 4472040	RICA	Instant	£5,000	5.25%	5.35%	Qy		
Leeds & Holbeck BS	0800 0728738	Alfikon Cheque	Instant	£5,000	5.00%	5.05%	Yy		
Investor Bank (UK)	0171 5974131	RICA 5000	None	£5,000	4.75%	4.85%	My		

FIXED RATE BONDS

Haffix	01422 333333	Guaranteed Rate	6 Month	£2,000	5.75%	5.83%	OM		
Northern Rock	0845 6004466	Fixed Rate Bond	1.4.00	£5,000	6.30%	6.30%	Yy		
Woolwich	0800 222220	Fixed Rate Bond	3 Year	£500	5.25%	5.25%	Yy		
Fitzwill Bank	0800 373191	Fixed Rate	4 Year	£2,500	5.25%	5.32%	1/2 Yy		

FIRST TESSAS

San Bank	01438 744505	5 Year	£1,000	6.75%	6.75%	Yy			
Legal & General Bank	0500 111200	5 Year	£3,000	6.60%	6.60%	Yy			
Principality BS	01222 344188	5 Year	£2,500	6.85%	6.85%	Yy			
Lambeth BS	0800 225221	5 Year	£3,000	6.45%	6.45%	Yy			

FOLLOW ON TESSAS

Barclays Bank	0800 400100	5 Year	£9,000	7.00%	7.00%	Yy			
San Bank	01438 744505	5 Year	£3,001	6.75%	6.75%	Yy			
Legal & General Bank	0500 111200	5 Year	£9,000	6.60%	6.60%	Yy			
Fenwick BS	0800 220568	5 Year	£9,000	6.60%	6.60%	Yy			

OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS (GROSS)

Portman Channel Islands	01481 822747	Instant 6	None	£5,000	5.50%	5.50%	Yy		
Irish Nationwide (IDM)	01824 673373	International Inst	None	£25,000	6.00%	6.00%	Yy		
Northern Rock Guernsey	01481 714600	Offshore 90	90 Day	£25,000	8.25%	8.25%	Yy		
Irish Nationwide (IDM)	01824 673373	International 90	90 Day	£50,000	6.65%	6.65%	Yy		

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS (NET)

ANG Life	0800 383698	1 Year	£15,000	4.30%	4.30%	Yy			
Countrywide Assured	0800 838020	2 Year	£10,000	4.10%	4.10%				
Countrywide Assured	0800 838020	3 Year	£10,000	4.15%	4.15%				
Countrywide Assured	0800 838020	4 Year	£10,000	4.25%	4.25%	Yy			

NATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (GROSS)

INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS	1 Month	£20	3.85%	Yy					
		£500	3.80%	Yy					
		£2,500	3.90%	Yy					
		£5,000	4.00%	Yy					
		£10,000	4.20%	Yy					
		£25,000	4.45%	Yy					
		£50,000	4.95%	Yy					
INCOME BONDS m.a.f 10/4/99	3 Month	£2,000	4.95%	My					
		£25,000	5.20%	My					
CAPITAL BONDS Series P	5 Year	£100	4.65%	OM					
FIRST OPTION BONDS	12 Month	£1,000	4.85%	Yy					
		£20,000	4.90%	Yy					
PENSIONERS GUARANTEED INCOME BOND Series S	5 Year	£500	4.65%	My					
50th ISSUE (tax free)	5 Year	£100	3.50%	OM					
10th INDEX-LINKED (tax free)	5 Year	£100	1.85% + inflation	OM					
CHILDREN'S BOND Issue W (tax free)	5 Year	£25	4.65%	OM					

ASR=Annual Equivalent Rate. B=Operated by post and telephone. F=Fixed rate (all other rates are variable). N=Net rate. OM=Interest paid on maturity. P=Operated by post. T=Operated by telephone. All rates are subject to change without notice. Please check all rates and terms before investing. All rates (except Guaranteed Income Bonds) are shown gross. Figures compiled on: 25th March 1999

Source: Moneyfacts

CRITICAL ILLNESS COVER

For a sum assured of £50,000 for a term of 25 years

MEN		WOMEN	
AGE 35		AGE 35	
Guardian	12.00	Pegasus	12.07
Prudential	12.77	Legal & General	13.60
Pegasus	12.92	Scottish Provident	13.85
Legal & General	13.00	Prudential	14.21
AGE 35		AGE 35	
Swiss Life	16.19	Legal & General	17.00
Guardian	17.70	Scottish Provident	17.17
Prudential	18.20	Swiss Life	17.78
Legal & General	18.50	Canada Life	17.80
AGE 40		AGE 40	
Swiss Life	25.72	Scottish Provident	23.20
Prudential	27.16	Pegasus	23.52
Legal & General	27.40	Legal & General	24.50
Scottish Provident	27.59	Canada Life	24.80
AGE 45		AGE 45	
Scottish Provident	40.16	Scottish Provident	31.35
Swiss Life	40.48	Zurich Life	31.57
Canada Life	43.40	Canada Life	34.40
Guardian	44.45	DIWA	38.56
AGE 50		AGE 50	
Scottish Provident	58.98	Zurich Life	43.99
Canada Life	61.80	Scottish Provident	46.35
Swiss Life	62.81	Canada Life	48.20
CUU Life	75.90	CUU Life	58.25

Source: Term Direct

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ANNUITIES

£100,000 purchase, guaranteed five years, monthly in advance

LEVEL SINGLE LIFE			
	MALE 50	MALE 55	MALE 70
Legal & General	7.679	8.773	10.182
Canada Life	7.763	8.764	10.125
Friends Provident	7.870	8.756	10.230
	FEMALE 50	FEMALE 55	FEMALE 70
Canada Life	7.247	8.063	9.235
Friends Provident	6.918	7.722	8.872
Equitable Life	6.968	7.876	8.683
JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOW'S BENEFIT			
	MALE 50 FEMALE 50	MALE 55 FEMALE 55	MALE 70 FEMALE 70
Canada Life	6.747	7.359	8.209
Equitable Life	6.605	7.170	7.954
Norwich Union	6.496	7.080	7.902

INDEX-LINKED SINGLE LIFE

	MALE 50	MALE 55	MALE 70
Prudential	5.769	6.759	8.067
Swi Life	5.544	6.718	8.305
Standard Life	5.520	6.636	8.100
	FEMALE 50	FEMALE 55	FEMALE 70
Prudential	5.092	5.788	6.859
Equitable Life	4.839	5.673	6.697
Canada Life	4.780	5.626	6.622

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOW'S BENEFIT

	MALE 50 FEMALE 50	MALE 55 FEMALE 55	MALE 70 FEMALE 70
Prudential	4.687	5.272	6.039
Equitable Life	4.554	5.149	5.955
Swi Life	4.170	4.944	5.897

Source: Annuity Direct

CORPORATE BONDS

COMPANY	FIRM	TARGET YIELD	RISK RATING	5% CHARGE	ANNUAL PER %
Perpetual	Mitby Inc	8.24	L/A	3.25	1.00
American	Faced Int	8.10	N/A	4.25	1.25
Franklin	European	8.00	L/A	3.75	1.00
M&B	High Yield	7.20	L/A	N/A	1.25
Scotlands	High Yield	7.00	L	N/A	1.00
Japhet	Corp Bond	6.54	N/A	4.00	1.00
Legal & Gen	Corp Bond	6.39	L	N/A	0.50
Banc & Trust	High Inc	5.97	L	N/A	0.75
Fidelity	Mortgdbdr	6.20	L	N/A	0.70
Vanguard	Inc Trust	5.95	L	N/A	0.70
M&M	High Yield	6.57	L/A	2.25	1.00
Guinness	Flt Value Bond	6.06	L	N/A	0.85

Source: Baronsworth Investment Services

BEST MORTGAGE RATES

FIXED RATES - WITHOUT REDEMPTION TIE-IN

	TELEPHONE	RATE	PERIOD	MAX LTV	FEE	INCENTIVE	REDEMPTION PENALTY
Northwide BS	0800 302010	5.39%	2 years	90%	£95	Refund of valuation fee	1st 2yrs 4% 3 months interest
Lambeth Simply	0845 909192	4.94%	1.4.02	95%	£295	Holiday Voucher - min £100	No MP
Simply Postal							To 1.4.02
B & B BS	0800 570800	5.34%	1.7.04	75%	£275	Free ASU (Growth), FTD-see val	To 1.7.04
WestMid Mktg Serv	0800 400399	5.58%	31.5.06	95%	£295	Adv 950%, no MP, FTD £145	To 31.5.06

FIXED RATES - WITH REDEMPTION TIE-IN

Staffordshire BS	0800 216121	3.49%	01.0.01	90%	£295	-	To 1.5.04-5% overrun repaid
Scarborough BS	0990 133149	3.90%	3 years	95%	£295	-	1st 5 years: 5% of sum repaid
Northern Rock	0845 6050500	5.19%	01.6.04	95%	£385	Free A for 6 months	1st 7 yrs 3-5% of sum repaid
						& rises up to 90% No MP	
First Mortgage	0800 08080	5.25%	31.3.04	90%	£295	-	To 31.3.06

CAPPED RATES

Lambeth Simply	0845 909192	4.49%	1.6.01	95%	£295	Holiday Voucher - min £100	1st 5yrs: 5% of advance
Northway Ecan BS	01782 255150	4.59%	31.1.02	95%	£295	-	1st 5 yrs: 120 days interest
Scarborough BS	0990 133149	5.65%	4 years	95%	£295	-	1st 4 yrs: 5% of sum repaid
Northern Rock	0845 6050500	5.99%	1.8.04	95%	£385	Free ASU (Growth), 90% No MP	1st 6 years

FIRST-TIME BUYERS (VARIABLE UNLESS SHOWN)

Woolwich	0345 454546	3.99%	1 year	95%	£100	2.5% advances related & up to 80% No MP	1st 5 yrs
Scarborough BS	0990 133149	4.20%	3 years	95%	-	£200 cash rebate	1st 5 years: 8.0% of SR
Northern Rock	0845 6050500	4.59%	1.8.02	95%	-	Ref val fee, free ASU (Growth) 90% No MP	1st 5yrs
Alliance & Leicester	0345 108108	5.30%	5 years	95%	£195	Adv upto 90% No MP	1st 6 years: 9 miles interest

VARIABLE DISCOUNTED RATES

Scarborough BS	0990 133149	0.60%	1 year	95%	£250	-	1st 5yrs: 5.25% of sum repaid
Northern Rock BS	0845 6050500	3.39%	01.6.01	95%	£250	Govt fee free ASU to 90% No MP 1st 6 years: 3-5% of SR	
West Bromwich BS	0121 5808404	4.45%	3 years	85%	£295	Free MP & free ASU for 1 year	1st 5 yrs: 5% of sum repaid
Buckinghamshire	01753 482100	5.45%	5 years	80%	£100	-	1st 5 years

ASU=Accident, sickness and unemployment insurance; P+C=Buildings and contents insurance, cover-end of month.
U=Unemployment insurance, MIP=Mortgage indemnity premium.
All rates subject to change without notice. Please check all rates before borrowing.

Figures compiled on: 29th March 1999

Source: Moneyfacts

BEST BORROWERS RATES

UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS

	APR	FIXED MONTHLY PAYMENT ON £2,000 FOR 3 YEARS		
Northern Rock	0845 6050808 9.3% H	With Insurance 181.67	No Insurance	£164.19
Wesco	0845 6006016 11.0%	With Insurance 182.38	No Insurance	£162.68
Phone & Loan (Woolwich Bank)	0800 1368658 11.5%	With Insurance 183.40	No Insurance	£164.51

OVERDRAFTS

	ACCOUNT	AUTHORISED %/M	APR	QUANTIFIED %/M	APR
Alliance & Leicester	0500 959595 Alliance	0.95%	12.00%	2.20%	29.8%
Northwide BS	0500 302010 Rescaccount	0.87%	12.20%	2.10%	28.3%
Abbey National	0800 731714 Bank	1.05%	13.40%	2.20%	29.5%

CARDS

STANDARD

	TELEPHONE	CARD TYPE	RATE %/M	APR %	FEE P/M	INTEREST FREE PERIOD	MIN INCOME
Co-operative Bank	0800 126000	Advantage Visa	0.46%	5.90%	NH	0 days	-
People's Bank Co-operative	0500 551055	Mastercard/ Visa	0.56%	6.90%	NH	56 days	-
RBS Advance	0800 077770	Visa	0.56%	6.90%	NH	56 days	-

GOLD CARDS

Co-operative Bank	0800 404070	Base Rate Visa	N/A	N/A	£120 -	£20K
Co-operative Bank	0800 126000	Adv Gold Visa	0.46%	5.90%	NH	£20K
People's Bank Co-operative	0500 551055	Mastercard/ Visa	0.56%	6.90%	NH	£20K

Head of Administration & Logistics

Cambridge



The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) is a component Institute of the Natural Environment Research Council. We are currently looking for a new Head of Administration & Logistics for our headquarters in Cambridge. To undertake its research mission, BAS employs over 425 scientists and support staff, and operates two research vessels and aircraft of Antarctic capability.

You will have line management responsibility for 240 support staff with an infrastructure budget of £22 million. You will be expected to plan, co-ordinate and manage the BAS annual field programme, including ship and aircraft schedules and emergency response planning. You must be prepared to advise the Director on financial strategy and manage the overall financial activities, including five year business planning, costings, submissions and in-year control. You will overview the procurement process and direct the infrastructure planning including major capital projects. You will also oversee recruitment, training and development activities, and advise the Director on personnel matters.

We are looking for wide experience of administration at a senior level, combined with a good background in finance and

procurement. You must be able to demonstrate high quality personnel management skills, and be able to undertake operational planning and strategy in support of Antarctic research activities. If you can make crucial decisions that will influence future strategy and provision of logistics in support of long-distance research activities, then BAS welcomes your application.

BAS would expect you to take up the post in the late summer of 1999. The nature of this role normally involves visits to Antarctica, but is UK based.

For further details and an application form, please contact Katie Boreham, Personnel Officer, Natural Environment Research Council, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, Wiltshire SN2 1EU. Tel: 01793 411542. Fax: 01793 411585. E-mail: ceb@nerc.ac.uk The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 16 April.

The Council has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. People from ethnic minorities are currently under-represented and their applications are particularly welcome.

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YOU CAN'T help but be grateful to whoever came up with the concept of stress. It's surely one of the finest inventions of our times. Can you imagine a bunch of medieval peasants throwing down their shovels and pitchforks and announcing they were suffering from burnout?

Of course, people had lower expectations then. As far as they were concerned there were only three things you could be: alive, dying or dead. But mere existence isn't good enough for us anymore; we expect to be amazingly well all the time, and if we're not we do something about it. "We need a holiday. Let's spend some of that

bonus money that's about to tumble into our bank account," said Jane once she'd sorted out the problems with her boss. "See if you can take one of the weeks with Easter in it," I laughed.

Didn't she realise they would have been booked up months in advance? But she just laughed right back and told me not to be naive. "Only senior managers dare to book time off at Easter or Christmas," she said. "No one else will because they think it doesn't look keen enough."

Luckily, she was right and now we're in Jamaica, sitting on the terrace of our villa, looking down over

Kingston and drinking Blue Mountain coffee. Quite how Jane managed to pull off a booking at such short notice, I'm not sure.

"Last-minute cancellation," she says. "Supermodel stubbed her toe and couldn't travel. Something like that, anyway."

Bad luck for her, brilliant for us. Strawberry Hill is the sort of place that's written up in the glossy magazines with breathless reverence, and is even nicer in the flesh than in the photographs. It seems an insult to call it a hotel.

The villas are so submerged in greenery and gardens that half the time you feel you're the only



THE TRADER

It's good to have a City job - lots of money, but no one knows who you are

people around. "Just as well, really," Jane says. "I feel a bit square compared to some of the other guests."

She's referring, I think, to the couple we saw as we arrived: him with goatee and crocheted skullcap, her with long blue hair and a nose stud. They just had to be stressed-out music business executives. "Do you think we seem as strange to them as they do to us?" I asked Jane, but from the way he was whispering to her and looking in our direction with an "I am not looking in your direction" expression on his face I had my answer.

Otherwise, we haven't really

seen many of the other people staying here. If we can hardly drag ourselves away from our villa, presumably they all feel the same, particularly the famous ones.

Even better, I've realised it's the first holiday in ages where there hasn't been an off-duty futures trader with a hyperactive mobile on the next balcony. Money talks, but some of it talks quieter than the rest.

"It's at times like this," I say to Jane as we sip our drinks, "that you appreciate having a City job. Lots of money, but no one knows who you are. I'd hate to be a celebrity and have my picture in the tabloids

every time I so much as sneezed." Jane agrees with me on that one and then tells me she's hungry and we should have dinner.

We find ourselves on the table next to the music-business couple who are vaguely looking in my direction. Suddenly he starts and nearly drops his drink, and I can hear him say: "It is, I tell you, it is." He stands and comes over shyly to our table. "I'm sorry to bother you," he says, "but there's this column in *The Independent* called 'The Trader'... I'm a big fan. Your profile... you look just like her. Are you?" And I blushed and said yes. Well, it's nice to be recognised, isn't it?

Fat Cats can be key to success

BY JON MOYNIHAN

EACH YEAR, as the annual reports begin to roll in, the "Fat Cat" compensation debate starts again. At PA Consulting, we believe this issue suffers from confusion between two questions:

Is there an optimal form of compensation scheme for top management that will maximise value for shareholders? (An "efficiency" question.)

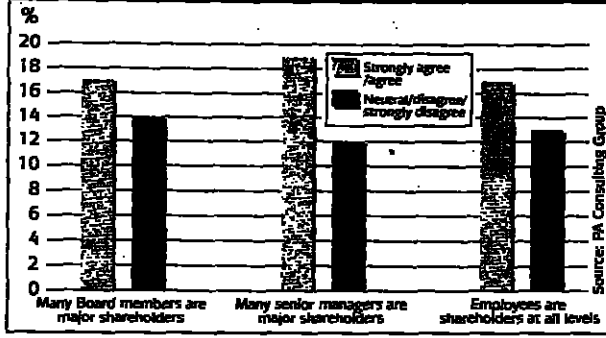
If top management receives enormous payouts as a result of the compensation scheme, is that necessarily a bad thing? (A "justice" question.)

We believe - based on client experience and extensive research - that shareholders should ensure their companies operate a top management compensation scheme that is efficient and just.

The Efficiency Question
What is the optimal top management compensation plan? Over the past year, PA has conducted surveys in 11 countries to uncover the characteristics of companies which create top levels of shareholder value.

The first finding was that our surveyed companies had widely different levels of shareholder returns over several years. We reached an unexpected conclusion. The most important factor associated with superior shareholder returns, was whether the

MAKING EMPLOYEES FEEL LIKE OWNERS



company adopted a "Managing for Shareholder Value" (MSV) approach to its top management compensation policies. The chart (above) shows that the average company which follows an MSV approach to its top management compensation has more than 6 percentage points of additional shareholder return, compared to the company that does not.

The chart also reveals that fewer than 1 in 10 companies follow such an approach. This finding is consistent across all our surveyed countries - with the exception of the US, where it is still less than one in four.

The impact of the correct compensation approach - across our surveyed countries - is enormous. The average annual shareholder returns of the company that embraces best practice in this area is almost 20 per cent a year, versus less than 14 per cent a year for

companies who reject that. Over 10 years, an investor putting £10,000 into a basket of companies following the right approach would see a return of £80,000. An investor who put a similar amount into companies following the opposite approach would get £34,000.

Managers of institutional investment funds are considered superstars if they can beat the market annually by two or three percentage points a year. Institutional investors need to build a "Code of Compensation Conduct" that ensures their company follows that approach.

For example:

- Ensure the company pays high variable compensation. A bonus scheme that allows managers to earn substantial bonuses - potentially rising to many times base salary - has an even larger impact on shareholder value.
- Ensure the company pays below-average salaries in senior positions, relative to what is paid in the industry. We found the impact on share price of paying high versus low salaries was three percentage points of shareholder return per year - an enormous amount.
- Ensure bonuses are contingent on shareholder results. The more top management interests can be aligned with those of shareholders, the more likely it is that shareholder returns will be maximised. Incentive programmes should focus on factors directly under the individual's control (value drivers), rather than on the overall share price. But the company should identify what management actions lead to share-price maximisation.



Jon Moynihan has found that lower top salaries and performance bonuses can benefit shareholders too

■ Ensure the company encourages top management and other staff - to have an ownership mentality. The most important thing is not the way in which you get people to be shareholders - it is just the fact that you do it.

■ Ensure the company pays non-executive directors in shares. Companies with many large shareholders on the board are more likely to increase shareholder value. The board will then focus more aggressively on its number one objective - to maximise share price over the long term.

The Justice Question
Is it fair when top managers earn enormous sums from compensation packages? Capitalism's underpinning of companies owned via shares traded on stock exchanges, is a successful mechanism for increasing economic value and benefit, for the benefit of a country.

If a company does not put in a compensation programme that has a strong potential upside for its executives, it is less likely to create value for shareholders. The reason is probably that insufficient incentives exist for managers to take the difficult but valuable decisions that increase

share price. "Fat Cat" executives of large companies are not in need of particular protection. Most probably they will continue to earn large remuneration packages for some time, whatever the degree of outrage.

But some aspects of these compensation packages are important if we are to have flourishing publicly owned companies, even if other aspects, such as high fixed salaries, are counterproductive.

Jon Moynihan is executive chairman of PA Consulting, the management and technology consultancy.

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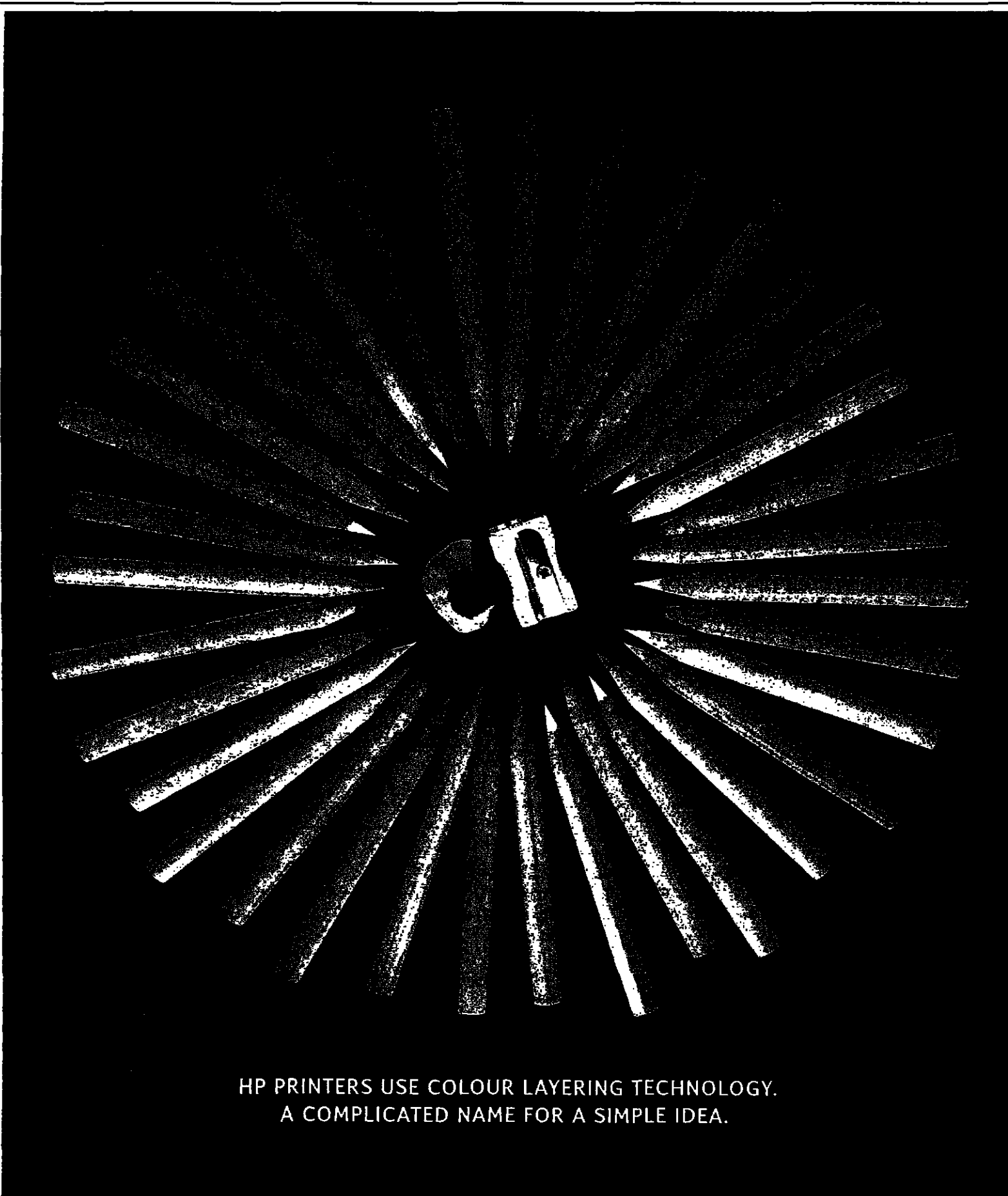
ME AND MY PARTNER

ANDREW DUNN AND SIMON CLARKE

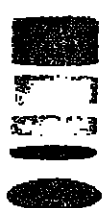
Andrew Dunn, founder of Ski Scott Dunn, met accountant Simon Clarke in the Alps in the late 1980s and the pair have worked together ever since. In 1996 they launched Scott Dunn World. Their combined business revenue now exceeds £5m.



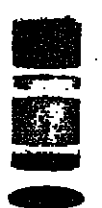
Andrew Dunn (left) says Simon Clarke's natural caution balances his more bullish approach. The pair have been partners since Dunn asked Clarke to look at his accounts, which were in a 'shocking state' Mark Chilvers



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ANDREW DUNN: I had been skiing before university and thought I would like to set up a ski company. I went to college and everybody laughed at me. But I am an obstinate person and it was blatantly obvious it could be done better. Back then, chalet holidays were completely different. I was 22 and highly motivated, and the first year of business was pretty exciting, but there was a relatively steep learning curve. I spent a year researching it all. I went to the Alps and did surveys on three different-sized companies. I found out people's likes and dislikes to pinpoint what they wanted on a holiday.

I distinctly remember meeting Simon when he arrived to see his sister, who happened to be working for us. He had driven out to the Alps in a black TVR car. I have always been good at running the business and having ideas, but the accounts were in a shocking state. I said to Simon "Can you take a look and prepare the books for the auditors?" He realised it was a little bit more than just a run-through. He said "Listen, one way is to join up and invest in the business." That's exactly what he did, and became the full-time finance director.

At the time, every brochure had some pretty blonde girl on the cover. We said, how are we going to be different? We did a totally black brochure, and that immediately got us noticed.

We had a loyal clientele, but we realised we had to expand if we were to have a good living. We ended up with the cream of the ski resorts and some of the best properties. My grandmother taught me that you should always buy the most expensive, because generally it's going to be the best. There are some little things we have always done when nobody else would go to such lengths. It's the fluffy bathrobes and the postcards, which are there in your room, the toiletries in your bathroom and the bottle of water on your table. Our greatest asset is our staff. We now have 14 in London and 87 overseas.

We got hit hard during the recession, and kept thinking, how deep can we dig into our own pockets? Then we took on board a whole new series of shareholders, from bankers to barristers. We weren't going to fall through lack of effort. I would take it as a personal insult if someone said they had had a bad holiday. I would be devastated.

Our non-executive chairman and I have always been the bullish ones, but Simon was confident we would get through the difficult times. Simon always sits and listens, and then comments. I will talk continually without necessarily having thought of every aspect or eventually. He is naturally the cautious partner.

We have never advertised the company, word-of-mouth is far better, and that is why we have to make sure every single holiday is excellent. It has always amazed me how travel companies would send out letters which would say, "Dear

Client". In the early days, I used to hand-sign every letter. Also, Simon and I know everything that goes on in the office, which is open-plan. It's important that you can overhear what people are saying.

My role is increasingly managerial, taking an overview of products. Competition in the travel industry is fierce, but no one is really doing cooks and nannies. We are transferring the Alps to the summer, and that's hugely exciting. You want to be with your children, but equally you want to read a book by the pool or play tennis.

We have never fallen out. I am more hot-headed and he would never lose his temper. I think he chose to work with me because he saw the possibility of being part of something which could grow and be successful, to which he could contribute - a chance for him to make his mark. I have infinite trust in Simon, and you know when you can trust someone.

SIMON CLARKE: When I met Andrew, I was working in the City: my father had set up an optical business, and myself and my brothers were to be drawn into it. But in 1989, the business was bought by Boots. I was working as an auditor and knew it wasn't really 'My grandmother taught me that you should always buy the most expensive, because it's generally going to be the best'.

what I wanted, though it was nice to see how other companies worked.

Andrew is a brilliant front man, but I think it was getting a bit lonely. Some of the back-room books and processes were being neglected. That's my strength, and I decided to go straight into it. I thought it was an opportunity I couldn't miss.

I knew Andrew pretty well - my sister and I shared a house - and after that first ski season, we got talking. It was an exciting business to be in, and Andrew was very enthusiastic, very inquisitive, and doesn't mind asking anyone a question, even if it's an incredibly stupid question. He's always getting knowledge from people and finding out how things work, then he stores that information away. Years ago, when he was up in Scotland with friends, they nicknamed him "Harry Keen". Lots of people know him as Harry now. He's always been the buzzy one.

One of the first things I did on arrival was to say that the company cars had to go. Until you actually look from afar at a business, you can't see these little things. Andrew is half Scottish and I hate paying bills, so we try and get value for money.

The great thing we had, in a small company, was to be able to sit down and make a decision and implement it. I loved that in-

formality and flexibility. There were no memos, and we could react very quickly. When we set up, there weren't many regulatory barriers, and a lot of people were setting up so they could go skiing and perhaps make a few bob. Andrew already had a long-term view. He was the first to sacrifice his holidays to get the company going. He loves skiing more than anything but that wasn't his intention in setting up. He had the vision, and we both had the same idea of what we could achieve. He has the energy, and I follow in his footsteps and back him up with a bit of reality.

We could have blossomed very quickly, but we both agree that it is still a niche market, and we have controlled it. We know most of the people who ski with us.

Andrew would take on a lot more and some of those things might well have been very successful, but I am always a little bit of a stick in the mud. You might have one good year, but if a downturn comes, you need spare capacity. I have instilled in Andrew that every single bed is not just a guest - it's money. We have paid for every apartment, so we must get some money for that bed, even if it means discounting. Andrew was very much the gentleman travel agent, and wouldn't discount because it meant somebody in a chalet might have paid more. That's a smashing principle, but economically it's just not viable. Now, he's understood that point and will do everything in his power to make sure every bed is sold.

One of Andrew's strengths is that he listens to people. We have a very fluid office: we go out for drinks together and Andrew and I will empty bins and clean the kitchen, so I think our staff respect us for that. We don't have an us-them relationship. In the last year, we've started to take on different roles. We have come to the point where we have to be much more leader-managers. There are things that happen now that we don't know about, and we're having to move up the ladder somewhat.

I am still cautious: we can work very hard and get everything super, but if there's no snow, it's disappointing for us and for the guests. I hate having that element out of my control. Being an accountant, I'm neat and tidy, even petanque, and I like things to be finished off in numbers and projects.

Andrew has been willing to buy and build chalets for several years, but I have always held off. We are not builders - our strength is running holidays, and I don't think we should be pulled away from that. I am keen to concentrate on what we do best. He says it would put a lot of value into the business, but I am risk-averse. We have got a nice lifestyle and we are selling good holidays. My motivation is not to grow numbers, drastically and sit on a £20m company. Andrew might be a little bit more motivated by getting a conglomerate going.

INTERVIEWS BY
RACHELLE THACKRAY

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • PLUS THE INFORMATION DAILY



Hell is other people

This estate in Bradford is on the up and up, says the local council. The police are 'cock-a-hoop'. Better still, on April Fools' Day, Jack Straw's new measures will be introduced to outlaw difficult neighbours. Try telling that to the residents with smashed windows and burning trees in the garden

I had never been to the Ravenscliffe estate in north Bradford and so I didn't really know what to expect. I knew that it used to be twinned with a place called Notorious, but was told that that was no longer the case. Jack Straw came here a year or so ago and promised everyone that things were going to get better. Much better. Just as in the song.

He was declaring war on neighbours from hell. No longer were crime, litter, spitting and antisocial behaviour to be tolerated. If the police didn't arrest someone, then he just must.

In fact, the Revolution was on the way, and it would begin here. Well, this week sees a key date in said revolution, though it is a trifle unfortunate that it is also April Fools' Day. This is when Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, also known as Asbos, are to be brought in. These are aimed at outlawing neighbours from hell or, as the Home Secretary has put it, town cravats. The idea is that the council or police will apply for the orders against anyone aged 10 or over who is engaged in routine intimidation or harassment. Professional witnesses can be used to prove victims' anonymity.

The order is an injunction, but if you are found to be in breach of it you can be sent to jail for up to five years. Charlatans are suspicious, but then they may be the next to a bullying horror whose idea of fun is throwing mugs of concrete about. People in Ravenscliffe do. Or so I had read.

I wanted to go to some families but thought it fair to call on councillors and community groups first. They were all happy to go on good news. "I hope you are not going to be naive," said one after the other. "Things are no better. Things have turned round!" Did I know about the Tenancy Enforcement Team? Did I realise there was a new lettings policy? At the monthly community meeting on the 1,500-house estate the councilman was so upset that the song and dance routine seemed sure to follow. Crime was down, down, he said. There used to be a few burglaries a day and now there were five a

month. "Tin sorry, but I am cock-a-hoop," he crowed. "It is time that we started talking up Ravensciffe, not talking it down."

I left, and couldn't help but notice that there was a man whose entire job was to watch our cars while we were at the meeting. The main avenue is wide and lined with two- and three-bedroom semi-detached houses. They were built in the Twenties of good materials. Most look in decent repair. They have largeish gardens. I saw a "for sale" sign. There's a chipmunk and a corner shop. It didn't look too bad. I turned off, on my way to meet the first family.

Here the rubbish is everywhere, and shocking. It fills gardens and spills on to pavements. In some gardens you cannot see green for the layers of old clothes, food wrappers, boxes, papers, nappies. Ripped bin-bags and bits of rubbish hang from trees as if taking part in some sort of grotesque urban spring. A long-time resident would leave all me that the technical term for all of this was "shit tip." "It's an old English expression," she said, and laughed as I wrote it down.

Many of the houses are empty with boards for windows. There is graffiti, and a general decay that makes those houses where people have attempted a flower bed or two look all the more pathetic. Suddenly the air is full of smoke and I see that one of the front gardens is ablaze. It is dusk and some boys are running around. They tell me they are burning rubbish but I can see that one is holding a how saw and another is trying to hide a freshly cut pine sapling behind his back. I drive by several times in the next few hours. Sometimes the flames leap into the night, sometimes they shrink to campfire size. I am told this is normal behaviour.

It takes a long time to find the street and, as I park, I am aware that this could be the last time I see my car. Normally I never think of such things, but this is hardly normal. Perhaps it is the smell of smoke mixed with rubbish, or the children fitting round as if they were extras in *Lord of the Flies*. Perhaps it is the eeriness of a half-empty neighbourhood. It occurs to me that we have all come to

see Neighbours from Hell as something that is a bit entertaining. Certainly on television they all seem locked in ludicrous battles involving hedges or fences or some bit of concrete. But this is no Bernard Ingham escapade. This place feels threatening and alien. Here someone else is in charge.

Marcia and Mike have one of those front rooms in which everything matches. The carpet is plush, the sofas are squidgy. The ornaments are arranged just so. The family photographs are in silver frames and displayed at careful angles. The room is a picture of order. The people in it are not. Marcia and Mike and their children are at the end of their own particular spiral of despair. They have been burgled 11 times and are now too afraid to leave the house for a holiday. They live amid constant intimidation

BY ANN TRENEMAN

though they will not tell me specifics, because they are scared of being identified. I am not using their real names, but they are still afraid. When I ask their daughter what she thinks, she starts to cry and says she just likes it one way or the other: her home to play in.

They explain that they are normal, respectable, working people and that they feel trapped in a street where most people are not. "We're honest. We work an honest living, don't we? We pay our way," says Marcia. They have lived here for at least a decade and the big problem is that they bought their council house. They are now desperate to sell, but who would buy here? Anywhere else, their house would be worth £40,000.

They see themselves as having two options. One would be to walk away. They did try to give the keys back to the building society after the worst burglary. But voluntary repossession would mean they could not get another mortgage. The second option would be to sell to a property management company. They did approach one; it offered them £15,000.

For now, they are stumbling on. I mention Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and they look at me strangely. How could Orders be brought against a

whole streetful of people? And what about reprisals? "Even if they moved them out, they would know where to find us," they say. No one has talked to them about using the Orders. I say that they could have professional witnesses. They say that it would be obvious who had complained. They are too afraid and too exhausted. Marcia says she has been on anti-depressant tablets for six months and has no plans to come off them. Both see the only answer as the council buying their house so that they can go away and start a new life.

I am surprised that my car is still there. Next stop is the home of Cathy and Dave. They, too, are the odd ones out on their street. They have had a brick through the window, air pellets, half a dozen burglaries, and sleepless nights. There are always kids running around, even at 2 a.m. Lumps of concrete appear in the drive. Their home is immaculate but it is also a fortress. Their dog is wearing a muzzle. "It's intimidation more than anything. When we leave, we know we've been seen," she says. They stagger their schedule. They believe they are always being observed and so sometimes, just to keep these people guessing, Cathy or Dave will drive while the other hides in the back seat.

They have nothing but praise for their MP Terry Rooney, the police and the Tenancy Enforcement Team, though they say that none of these has given them any results. They say that the police are much like me: they sit in the family's front room, commiserating but unable to relax because they are worried about their cars.

Cathy: It's a nightmare here.

Dave: I can't invite anybody to this house. The only people who will come are good friends and brave friends. You can't invite people here. It's awful. We are trapped.

Cathy: We are not ashamed of our house. We worked to pay for this and keep it decent.

Dave: Our problem is getting anyone into the street...

Cathy: ...without a brick being thrown.

As home-owners, they are trapped; but they also

seem feisty. "They bloody aren't going to get me down, that's why," says Cathy. I mention Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and she says that she was told she would have to sign an affidavit and stand up in court. I said that that wasn't the case (though the Home Office, when I rang them, could not tell me exactly what the case). Cathy says that whatever happened, other intimidating types would just take the place of the current offenders. Plus, everyone would know who had complained. Cathy and Dave want the council to buy them out. They say that Anti-Social Behaviour Orders may look good on paper, but this is reality.

The next day I meet a group of women who run the advice centre and put on a weekly lunch for people on the estate who otherwise would never get out. They believe that the Orders are the work of Big Brother. Anyway, they don't see why people should let others bully them or push them about. "If you seem frightened, that's when they take advantage," says Pat Quirk, who has lived here since 1963. The conversation swirls around various subjects: the police attitude to paedophiles, the fact that someone on the estate has a horse in their garden, the lack of bin-liners. The local housing officer, Jim Steward, notes that what looks simple in Westminster, in the real situation becomes linked to all these subjects and more.

I fear the Revolution is on shaky ground here, but at last I meet a man named Jim who lives on a different street with a different attitude. He is hopeful, and thinks the Orders could really work. Most of the people on this street are good neighbours, he says, but there are one or two who aren't. One man in particular has a foul temper and occasionally explodes in a window-smashing frenzy. The next time that happens, he just might find himself the subject of an Order.

Suddenly, in this house with no fear, I can see how the Orders could work. But that is when the bad neighbour is the odd one out. How can they possibly be used to reclaim streets where neighbours from hell are in the vast majority?

Simon Rydner/Guzelkhan

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FASHION

Kosovo: heading for a new catastrophe

Sir: Have you gone quite bonkers? ("Nato cannot delay sending in troops to protect Kosovo", 30 March.) How many months will it take to plan the occupation? Kosovo is landlocked. How do you get there? If you fight your way across Kosovo to establish your protectorate, who and what will be left?

How many casualties will you then accept from Tito's heirs, whose terrorist murders of our troops will make the IRA look like lily-livered jelly-babies? How will you handle Russian and other "volunteers" who come to help them?

In any case, your excellent reporting from Kosovo shows that the atrocities are now led by Serb irregulars in *ad hoc* uniforms. Refugees talk of being driven out by knives, not tanks. Arkan is in Belgrade because the entire Serb population is determined to attack any Albanian they can find. They will delight in butchering our troops maintaining a protectorate. Nato has created a situation in which air power is useless.

Milosevic could not call off the Serb gangs even if he wanted to while Nato air attacks continue. He might or might not be able to do so if the attacks stop now. Nato has put him in a position of supreme authority.

Please engage your brain and think a little.
DEREK J COLE
Jesus College
Cambridge

Sir: Many political figures, including Tony Blair, have gone to great lengths to stress to ordinary Yugoslav people that this war is not aimed at them but at Milosevic and his regime.

In 1995 after the UN withdrew from its protectorate role in southern Croatia, the world stood by as Croatia ethnically cleansed the Serbs from the Krajina region. Since 1991 Yugoslavia has been suffering under sanctions. The economic environment, partly a legacy of the old Communist system, made worse by the assimilation of refugees, destroyed by sanctions and heavily assisted by poor government, has created an environment where the black market, organised crime and paramilitary organisations thrive.

This atmosphere is not likely to spawn healthy democratic debate and a strong liberal opposition. This dreadful downward spiral is being made even worse by the bombardment. Despite this there remain a huge number of Yugoslavs who do not support the current regime. This was evident by the mass demonstrations in all the major Yugoslav cities eighteen months ago.

Even the most broad-minded pro-Western Yugoslavs must be having their patience tested. They are bewildered by suggestions that by bombing them a humanitarian catastrophe will be avoided. They believe they are living a humanitarian catastrophe already, which is about to get seriously worse, and that two wrongs don't make a right. For them this war is no longer about defeating Milosevic: it is now about defending their homeland from a foreign invasion.
FRANCIS MAGUIRE
London SW19

Sir: The fears expressed by the Chairman of the Macedonian Citizens in the UK (Letter, 29 March) are real indeed. The KLA have as their aim the union of all Albanians of Serbia/Montenegro, Macedonia and Albania itself into a single state.

Tito allowed nearly half a million people to flee Albania and settle in Kosovo in the upheavals of 1948 when Yugoslavia broke with Stalin. This altered the demographic profile of the region dramatically. Corrupt Albanian officials abused the extensive autonomy granted in 1974 to carry out a campaign of intimidation to "encourage" the dwindling Serbian inhabitants to move north.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Ballet School No 3: The girls at the Davies Ballet School in Cardiff wrestle with the more difficult steps

Ann Doherty

But it's probably "unpatriotic" to point out any inconvenient historical details at such a moment of "national glory".
BRIAN POCOCK
London W6

Nato action is legal

Sir: Andreas Whittam Smith (Comment, 29 March) and Ken Coates (Letter, 29 March) are incorrect to say Nato's action against Yugoslavia is contrary to international law and the United Nations Charter.

Article 2(4) of the Charter is not a blanket prohibition on the use of force, rather it limits force to be used for purposes consistent with the UN Charter but does ban force with the purpose of undermining the territorial integrity and political independence of any state.

The purpose of the current use of force is not to undermine Yugoslavia, but rather to ensure that its government adheres to international law and halts the genocide against the Kosovars. Customary international law in the area of the use of force was confirmed by the International Court of Justice as recently as 1986 (see the Nicaragua Case, merits stage, paragraph 176) and this does include the category of humanitarian intervention. International crimes such as genocide are not a matter of internal affairs and require international enforcement.

Had force been used to uphold international law in Bosnia at earlier stage, the events in Kosovo might never have taken place.
JOHN STRAWSON
Senior Lecturer in Law
University of East London
Dagenham, Essex

Sir: Although, there is broad support in this country for the air strikes, increasingly people are beginning to question the legality of action against a sovereign state and the consequence of military action upon the population in Kosovo.

However, to say that we shouldn't intervene is to absolve

ourselves of a moral duty to protect victims who are helpless. It is morally incumbent upon those who have the power to stop an injustice, to exercise that power. In the same way that I would expect a bystander to intervene when a woman was being mugged on the Tube, I expect Nato to intervene. This principle transcends national boundaries; values like justice are universal; national boundaries change.

Those that believe that the air strikes have exacerbated the policy of ethnic cleansing are absolutely right. But the Serbs always intended to ethnically cleanse Kosovo, which they regard as the heart of their country. If Nato hadn't intervened then we would have had periodic massacres and forced expulsions, with Milosevic using all the diplomatic initiatives that would have followed to play for time.

The air strikes have sent a clear message to Serbia that we won't acquiesce in atrocities. It is to Nato's eternal credit that we have refused to let an evil unparalleled since the Nazis prevail.
MOHAMED HAJI
London E8

UK Serbs in fear

Sir: Whatever view your readers have formed on the rights and wrongs of the Nato action against Yugoslavia, may I bring to their attention the anguish in which thousands of people in this country live whilst the bombs are falling?

Approximately 40,000 people of Serbian origin live in this country, many of whom are married to "ordinary" British citizens such as myself. Since the Nato operation started I have had less than twelve hours' sleep. My wife's immediate family lives in Belgrade, others in Uzice and Nis, names which feature in reports on the bombing raids.

Hours are spent trying to telephone but the connections to Yugoslavia are almost non-existent. After two days my sister-in-law managed to reach us to say that they are safe but that a cruise

missile had destroyed a telecommunications centre 200 yards from their flat. (Would the designers stake their lives on their accuracy?)

Now we wait for the next call, the hours filled with triumphant news reports of yet another successful mission or "unconfirmed" stories of atrocities to stir the nation's passions and reassure those who dare doubt. And still we wait. A plane is reported missing. If it is RAF will the nation's anger be vented on British Serbs, whipped up by a media intent on justifying this crusade?

In a war in which not a single shot will be heard in this country and possibly not a single British casualty, would it be too much ask to tone down the jingoism?
NAME AND ADDRESS
SUPPLIED

Redraw Balkan map

Sir: Instead of establishing a Nato protectorate, the West should try to build on the idea of partitioning Kosovo, which has been floating in Serbian nationalist circles for over a decade.

The map could be drawn to balance advantages. For example, the Albanians would get most of the territory; the Serbs would get land containing some of medieval monasteries, while the others would be put under the UN protection. The working assumption should be that the Serbian part of Kosovo would become an integral part of Serbia, while the Albanian part would join Albania. The establishment of a Nato protectorate over Kosovo would only freeze, not resolve, the conflict. Only partition achieved by agreement could end the conflict in Kosovo.
RANDEIR SINGH BAINS
Gants Hill, Essex

Sir: M Edwards (Letter, 29 March) rightly questions whether the concept of the sovereign or nation state has had its day.

What constitutes a feeling of nationhood is complex. It may be

having clearly defined topographical boundaries, or a common language, or religion, or a common history. Happy are those such as in these islands where these four factors largely coincide. Unfortunately in much of Europe this is not so.

Tony Blair should seize the initiative to establish a new Congress of Vienna at which representatives of all European countries including Russia could review national boundaries.
BRIAN PARKYN
Southam, Warwickshire

Punish war crimes

Sir: It is clearly right to put President Milosevic under notice that his behaviour to the Albanian Kosovans makes him liable to trial for war crimes. But the people of Serbia who keep him in power must bear some responsibility.

I suggest that the international community should act as the Commonwealth did with South Africa under apartheid and hit them where it really hurts by refusing to play with them - in this case football and tennis, not cricket and rugby.
DAME ALIX MEYNELL
Sudbury, Suffolk

Sir: The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, has pledged that all war criminals in Kosovo will be hunted down, arrested and brought before the International War Crimes Tribunal (report, 30 March). Whilst I find this very commendable and appropriate, I cannot but feel a sense of *déjà vu*. I am of course referring to the promise that the Bosnian butchers Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic were also going to be hunted down and brought to justice. Let's hope Mr Cook is more successful this time.
MEHMET CENKIAS
London N21

RAF veteran

Sir: Hearing of the Harriers savaging the Serbs reminds me that the aircraft first entered

service 30 years ago on 1 April. It was on time and within its £50m development budget.

By most standards, a service life of more than 30 years is fairly exceptional for front-line aircraft. All the more credit to John Fozard for the airframe design and to Stanley Hooker for its engine, to mention just two of many.

Repeated improvements in the airframe, engine and electronics fits have produced the aircraft which helped to win the Falklands war and which has taken part in more recent conflicts in its own unique way. Long may it continue.
Air Marshal Sir REGINALD E W HARLAND
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

Insult from Blair

Sir: If only 1 per cent of the horror the Serbs are being reported as visiting on the Albanians is true it is outrageous. But what is also horrifying and outrageous is that the Serb response to the bombing was completely foreseeable. Do our leaders now expect us to believe that they are going to fly around picking off Serb tanks and platoons, and halting the atrocities that way.

Tony Blair's insistence (Parliamentary report, 30 March) that there is no causation between the bombing and the increase in Serb atrocities is an insult to the intelligence of all British men and women.
STEVE JACKSON
London W9

Tankbuster peril

Sir: Can we have assurances from the Government that the US A-10 Thunderbolts will not be using depleted uranium tipped shells to attack Serbian forces in Kosovo? Or are we to have a repeat of the humanitarian catastrophe that has befallen the irradiated population of southern Iraq?
DAVID EDWARDS
Bournemouth, Dorset

A classic laureate

Sir: I understand that the choice of Poet Laureate will be made in April. It has been claimed that Derek Walcott is "in an older classical tradition, feared to be out of touch with fashionable poetic concerns". This rings an alarm bell for the future of our language.

The essence of fashion is that it is here today and gone tomorrow. Does this apply to the work of laureates Hughes, Betjeman, Tennyson? Is it "out of touch with poetic concerns" and therefore the public, to write of a new identity in the post-colonial world for those uprooted from their history, their language?

Perhaps it is unfashionable, in our present educational climate, to have imbued oneself, as Walcott has, with the "older classical tradition" from Homer through Shakespeare, Milton, Wordsworth.

There is surely no poet other than Walcott of such deserved international stature or who speaks with such relevance for Britain and the Commonwealth. It has been suggested that the literary academic world cannot accept that the best poet writing in the English language today is black. What a wasted opportunity if this unique concurrence should be lost.

JILL DANIEL
Bodmin, Cornwall

The Timor alert

Sir: It was Australian government inaction over the murder of Margaret Wilson's cousin Malcolm Rennie (Letter, 29 March), and the four newsmen murdered with him, that was understood by Indonesian generals as Western approval for genocide as a "solution" to the "problem" of East Timor.

Indonesia's top generals informed the Australian government on 13 October 1975 that some 3,200 Indonesian troops would invade East Timor from West Timor on 16 October. Some 800 of those troops would go in via Balibo. The Australian government was told. It was at Balibo, on 16 October, that Malcolm and the others were killed.

The Australian government's latest report on these deaths was published in February 1999. As Ms Wilson's letter says, that report is both "limited in scope and flawed in execution". Equally serious, that report ignores the fact that the Australian government was warned of the attack.

British failure to act, now, over these deaths risks further genocide in East Timor from its illegal occupiers.

HUGH DOWSON
United Nations Association
Western Region
Bath

Time for reform

Sir: I cannot be the only person who felt disorientated on Sunday morning after losing an hour's sleep, but who was grateful for the prospect of lighter evenings. Nevertheless, I feel that permanent British Summer Time would not be appropriate because of excessively long dark mornings in Scotland, and the loss of October's extra hour in bed would be hard to bear.

May I therefore suggest that the country adopts Greenwich Mean Time in the mornings, and BST in the afternoons? The clocks could go forward after lunch and back around 2am. This would reduce the working week (currently far too long for most people) and give everyone an extra hour in bed every night. Evenings would be lighter, and mornings not too dark in winter. Why has nobody thought of this before?
JOHN PARKER
London N3

Free press

Sir: The article describing the shenanigans at the press awards evening shocked me profoundly (Media, 30 March). How can I get tickets for next year's event?
RICHARD COLTART
London SW18

God's recipe for squid, and other red herrings

I AM constantly being deluged with letters from readers who are intrigued by the changes in meaning of the English language, and want to be kept up to date with new words and new definitions. Rather than make a fool of myself or confess ignorance, I prefer to enlist an expert, and that is why I have waited until Dr Wordsmith dropped in on his way to the pub. Or on his way back from the pub. Or en route from one pub to another. It's hard to tell, sometimes. Anyway, here he is again, and so it's all yours. Dr Wordsmith!

Dear Dr Wordsmith, I sometimes think how odd it is that there are everyday things which we never talk about because they have no name. For instance, when we buy a pair of men's socks, they are often

joined together by a little link which we have to snap or unfile in order to part the socks. As far as I know, that link has no name. There may well be a technical term used by hosiery, but it has not percolated down to common parlance.

Dr Wordsmith writes: I seem to have missed the question. Is it something to do with socks?

No, I haven't come to it yet. Dr Wordsmith writes: Well, let me know when you have.

My question is really about sticky plasters. When you are putting on a plaster, you first have to pull off two flaps to reveal the sticky ends. These two flaps are then discarded and they flutter to the floor while you get on with the serious business of putting the plaster on the right

place, though in fact they mostly seem to be imbued with static electricity and stick to your clothing... Dr Wordsmith writes: I'm sorry. What seem to be imbued with static electricity?

These things. These flaps that come off plasters. These plaster wings, or whatever they're called. That's exactly my point! They seem to have no name, that's why there are so many of them littered around bathroom floors! Nobody can say, Pick up those... things, because nobody knows what they are called.

Dr Wordsmith writes: I get your point. And what is your question?

Do they in fact have a name? Dr Wordsmith writes: I have no idea. And the next!

means very little to most people these days, yet the phraseology of religion survives.

We talk about giving someone a sermon, or preaching to someone - often to the converted! We say that our prayers have been answered, even when we haven't been praying. We talk about things being the bible of something, even if we've never read the Bible. For instance, Caroline Waldegrave and C.J. Jackson once wrote a book called *Leith's Fish Bible*, a very good book, but one which could only have been titled by someone who took religion not very seriously. I mean, did they imply that God appeared unto Mrs Waldegrave and spoke unto her privately, telling her the best way to prepare squid?

Dr Wordsmith writes: Is that your question?



MILES KINGTON

'Leith's Fish Bible' could only have been titled by someone who took religion not very seriously

Dear Dr Wordsmith, I am intrigued by the role of religion in daily life. We are often told that religion

means very little to most people these days, yet the phraseology of religion survives.

We talk about giving someone a sermon, or preaching to someone - often to the converted! We say that our prayers have been answered, even when we haven't been praying. We talk about things being the bible of something, even if we've never read the Bible. For instance, Caroline Waldegrave and C.J. Jackson once wrote a book called *Leith's Fish Bible*, a very good book, but one which could only have been titled by someone who took religion not very seriously. I mean, did they imply that God appeared unto Mrs Waldegrave and spoke unto her privately, telling her the best way to prepare squid?

Dr Wordsmith writes: Is that your question?

No, I haven't come to it yet. What puzzles me is that when people use the word "bible" they always refer to something which is as accurate and compendious as you can get. Wisdom might be the cricketer's bible, for instance. But this is the exact opposite of what the real Bible is about. There is nothing authoritative about the Bible. The real Bible is a bundle of myths, and half-forgotten history, and scrambled facts and fiction. The Old Testament is garbled history and the New Testament is a series of conflicting stories about Jesus. The phrase "the gospel truth" is an oxymoron. You can have the truth or the Gospel, but not both.

Dr Wordsmith writes: Have we come to a question yet?

No, I was just letting off steam.

Dr Wordsmith writes: The you, I hope you feel better. And I need!

Dear Dr Wordsmith, The expression "letting off steam" is interesting, because most people alive today will not have steam being let off, and yet the phrase is still current. Is there any word meaning, "a phrase which has outlived its pictorial inspiration"? Dr Wordsmith writes: am sure there is.

Do you know what it is? Dr Wordsmith writes: I have not the faintest idea.

As the pubs are still, Dr Wordsmith will be with tomorrow for a further session (etiological wisdom). So kee these queries rolling in!

THE INDEPENDENT

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A quartet of unions that do the teachers a great disservice

EACH EASTER we are greeted by daffodils, Easter eggs and a week of teachers' unions conferences. "The conferences have not always been the best advertisement for the profession," David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, has drily observed. And this year looks as if it will be as bad as ever.

Yesterday the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) was kicked off by the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL). Immediately, the tone is set by the battle against performance-related pay rather than such issues as raising standards in the classroom or improving the status and authority of teachers. Is it any wonder that despite - or indeed perhaps because of - regular bouts of union militancy, teachers have lost the support of so many parents and continue to fall behind other professionals in pay rates?

Unlike doctors or lawyers, teachers have never had a professional association. Instead, they are represented by four competing unions, of which the National Union of Teachers (NUT) is the worst. Its London-based male fire-brands still regard the classroom as a factory for social engineering in ways that were unfashionable even in the Seventies. Doug McAvoy keeps the militants mostly in check (although even he could not stop delegates from jostling Mr Blunkett and his guide dog at their conference two years ago). But the NUT has set its face against performance-related pay on principle.

The National Association of School Masters Union of Women Teachers regards itself as the more professional face of teaching, representing as it does secondary school teachers. Nonetheless, Nigel de Gruchy's outfit has shown itself willing to take on the Government over conditions and pay. Although a strike ballot is scheduled, Mr de Gruchy is prepared to come to a compromise over performance-related pay. For those teachers who find de Gruchy still too radical there is the ATL, as well as the Professional Association of Teachers which refuses to go on strike.

But these competing voices do not improve the well-being of those in the classroom. There are signs that this is starting to be seen. The unions have welcomed the Government's idea for a General Teaching Council, which would be set up on the lines of the General Medical Council, maintaining best practice and policing the profession.

Teachers, many of whom work long hours in difficult circumstances and for comparatively little reward, deserve better from their professional representatives. They need one professional association that can speak to the Government with the authority of unity, and which can address the public with the likelihood of getting sympathy for its cause. This is the most pressing battle that should be fought this week. Sadly, however, it is one that is likely to be ignored once again.



Don't ignore the other casualty of the bombs

THERE IS a sense of *déjà vu* about the ongoing mission of Yevgeny Primakov, the Russian Prime Minister, to Belgrade. Before the Gulf war Mr Primakov visited his "old friend" Saddam Hussein to broker a peace deal with Iraq. Then as now, it would be impossible for the Western Allies to accept the aggressor's offer of a ceasefire. With Saddam it would have meant accepting his seizure of Kuwait. With Slobodan Milosevic, President of Yugoslavia, it would mean rewarding his ethnic terror in Kosovo.

However, this is no reason to denigrate Russian efforts to find peace. For not the least casualty of the air strikes is the co-operation on foreign policy and military matters which the West and the Russians have developed since the end of the Cold War.

A Pan-Slav campaign to defend the Serbs is unlikely. But the West should not ignore Russia's sense of betrayal. Russia accepted the eastward expansion of Nato and military co-operation with the West on the grounds that Nato was a defence alliance. The West is in danger of teaching a generation of Russians to distrust international co-operation.

The need for the West to be sympathetic to Russian's sense of hurt is strengthened by its partial responsibility for Russia's economic predicament. The decision to guide Russia from a command to a market economy was correct. But the means chosen were far too theoretical and the pace was far too fast. Western economists neglected to wait for Russia to develop the legal and social infrastructure that prevents capitalism degenerating into gangsterism.

In the short term, the West can afford to listen to Russia's roars with equanimity. Despite its geographic size and large population, Russia's economy is smaller than Holland's. It needs its IMF loans too much to fight for Serbia. But in the longer term, Russia's sense of betrayal could

be dangerous to the West. It will increase the appeal of nationalist politicians, such as Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, and those people within and close to the army who regret Russia's loss of status. Both groups will make the task of developing a liberal and democratic politics in Russia much more difficult.

A desire to build up the power of Russia could encourage the meddling in neighbouring states and arms trading which the West has tried to stop. Small countries with restive Muslim minorities - Armenia and Georgia, for instance - might become fearful of US intervention and want to tighten their borders with Russian weapons.

The outrage of the Russian people will die down once the Kosovo campaign is over. The man in the Moscow underground has only the vaguest idea about Mr Milosevic and the issues at the heart of the conflict. None the less, the West will have to struggle to reintegrate Russia in international institutions. The IMF could begin that process today by providing Russia with a generous loan.

Can Mr Blair really make war and peace at the same time?

THE ART of good government is the ability to do several things at once without the confusions and contradictions becoming too blatant or the seams of smart credibility tearing to expose the uncertainties of power. As the Good Friday anniversary approaches, Tony Blair confronts two crises that threaten to haunt the rest of his premiership.

Like Queen Mary, who had Calais engraved on her heart, Mr Blair will have Belfast and Belgrade stamped on his. He must continue to hold public support for the peace in Northern Ireland when the auguries are grim. At the same time, he must stiffen support for bombing Serbia when the gains are looking unsure and public nerves are starting to jangle. Merging peace and war at the same time is a draining combination.

The Northern Ireland peace process was always going to be an exercise in long-distance running. As the anniversary approaches, it is looking like a marathon with random hurdles and ditches inserted to test the spirit of the weary participants. At such times the Prime Minister's job is a lonely one. And especially so for Mr Blair. Northern Ireland and foreign policy have not, in the past few years, been the focus of Labour interest.

Grown unused to office, the party is content to wrap itself in the general pieties of pro-republicanism and some highly selective likes and dislikes about abroad: Pinochet bad, Mandela good, Northern Ireland civil rights activists good, Unionists bad.

Anyone who thought much further than that was deemed danger-

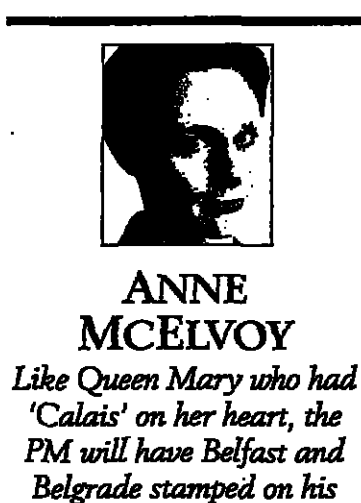
ously complex and not quite on message. The remnants of this intellectual laziness persist on the far left of the party today, where Michael Foot is an unbalanced apologist for Croatia, while Tony Benn considers the war against Serbia to be a US imperialist plot against a proud Slav nation.

Few of Mr Blair's cabinet colleagues have the experience or interest in Nato matters or Northern Ireland to be much use to him right now. Robin Cook has his hands full with a media war fighting an extraordinary degree of anti-Nato bias in the BBC's reporting.

George Robertson is a dab hand at being pro-Nato, but he is overplaying it badly with references to Serb "genocide". Genocide is the attempted killing of an entire race. If Mr Robertson cannot convince us of the need for air strikes without inflating the Serbs' record of repression in Kosovo into a second Holocaust, we really are in trouble.

On the peace front, Mo Mowlam has fronted the peace process with aplomb, but suspicion has deepened among moderate Unionists that she errs too much towards letting Sinn Fein get away with not decommissioning arms.

For his part, Mr Straw stuck his nose in at exactly the wrong time by calling for judicial review of the release of four IRA prisoners who had been convicted in the English courts but failing to get their release stopped - his first tactical blunder since taking office. Fortunately, Mr Blair was provident enough to squirrel away a senior member of staff for just such



a testing time in the shape of Jonathan Powell, a former senior diplomat who is the link to Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, and who also attends to the nuts and bolts of the Northern Ireland peace process. Quite how Mr Powell organizes his week at the moment is beyond comprehension.

It is tempting to say that there is a screaming contradiction between our tolerance of punishment beatings, our tolerance of low-intensity violence, the selective interpretation of agreements in Northern Ireland - and our readiness to go into conflict with another power that behaves in similar ways.

Indeed, a number of voices sceptical of the peace process, of involvement in Kosovo, or of both, have started to point this out. It is easy to

summon up the outrage: what are we doing bombing Slobodan Milosevic's military installations while we are striving to keep terrorists at the negotiating table in Ireland?

But it is different. Obviously so, because Ulster is a province of the United Kingdom and thus unavoidably London's problem, whereas we clearly had a choice about whether we intervene in the Balkans. Having embarked on the peace process - a measure which was popular with mainstream political opinion everywhere and which brought him his first international laurels as leader - Mr Blair is anxious to maintain any momentum he can muster, however ominously the sledge of resistance and resentment thickens in both the Republican and the Unionist camps.

On Monday, the Irish leader Bertie Ahern and Mr Blair flew to Northern Ireland in an attempt to reach an agreement on arms.

The Prime Minister can hardly be encouraged by Gerry Adams' words in an Observer interview the day before: "Anyone who thinks I'm hard-balling, negotiating, going down to the wire, is failing to understand that this Sinn Fein leadership cannot deliver decommissioning."

Releasing the location of a few buried bodies, the IRA's grisly idea of a positive gesture towards advancing the process is no compensation for some modest, verifiable display of weapons forfeit. Bodies are about the IRA's past behaviour; decommissioning is about its future.

One day, the paramilitaries may accept that the forfeit of arms is not to

be equated with weakness. But that day is likely to be further away than Mr Blair believed this time last year.

The peace process consists of multiple bridges of ambiguity over which the various parties have so far tiptoed in order to keep the whole edifice from crumbling. The outstanding one is that Sinn Fein never signed the Good Friday agreement, and thus cannot be bound by it. As Mr Adams pointed out, the parties are pledged only to use their "good offices and influence" to achieve decommissioning, and so cannot be censured if they do not actually deliver it.

If, on the other hand, the Government presses ahead with the creation of an all-party executive without any sign of a weapons handover, the Unionist leader David Trimble is in grave danger of suffering the same fate as his predecessor Brian Faulkner, toppled by his own party in 1974 because it was pushed too far by London to accept the Sunningdale agreement on power-sharing. To destabilise moderate Unionism, now would be a grave miscalculation.

The only ambiguity left to indulge is the wearisome one of extending the timetable for the creation of cross-border institutions and postpone the final accord. It is not war but it is far from a stable peace either.

Mr Blair faces two of the key challenges to peace in our time. If he fails in the Balkans, he will be accused of lacking caution. If Mr Blair fails in Ireland, he will be blamed - by each side - for not having been brave enough. It is enough to make you wish him luck.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Jews cannot celebrate Passover without protesting this genocide."
Rabbi Michael Melchior, orthodox Jewish leader, speaking to the Yugoslav ambassador to Israel

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Love your neighbours, but don't pull down the fence."
Chinese proverb

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BUT AT least Kevorkian had, in the beginning, a valid point: it should not be up to the state to decide how much pain a person must endure, how much hopeless struggle is enough, how much loss of function must be accepted, how much dependency tolerated. Those are personal choices. Fayetteville Observer Times

THE PRO-EUTHANASIA crowd should check out the Netherlands where doctors have had

the right to kill patients for decades. The elderly and disabled fear getting medical help because they're not sure if they'll be cured or killed. Many have been put to death without any say in the matter. Is this where the US is headed? It is - especially if Oregon-style laws are passed in other states. Already an interest group, made up mostly of disabled persons, has formed to fight the trend. It calls itself Not Dead Yet. How sad that our most vulnerable

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
US opinion on the conviction of Dr Kevorkian for second-degree murder

citizens feel they need an organization with that name. Augusta Chronicle

THE ISSUE of Dr Kevorkian in particular is not particularly

complicated. This is a man who has aided in the deaths of many people whom he did not know and had not previously treated and whose mental competency to decide to die he

was in no position to assess. Whatever one thinks of assisted suicide, there is something demonic about a freelance death peddler who seems - as Dr Kevorkian has over the years - to be so energized by such morbid work. The Washington Post

JACK KEVORKIAN accurately represents the face of assisted death. Until this verdict, it had been effectively legalized in this state. Once legalized, the

practice of assisting death, like Dr Kevorkian himself, would become increasingly uncontrollable. The job for the medical and legal systems now is not to seek ways to end the suffering of the ill by eliminating the sufferers themselves. It is to make sure pain is effectively relieved and to reassure patients that their wishes regarding end-of-life treatment - or non-treatment - will be respected. Detroit News

PANDORA

AUSTRALIAN REPUBLICANS are so confident of winning the upcoming referendum and installing a president by 2001 that they've reserved part of Sydney Harbour for a big binge on 31 December, 2000. They're calling it Last Night of the Poms.

WHODATHUNKIT? According to a new survey by an American cleaning products manufacturer, Brits have "the smelliest homes in Europe".

TORY BOY William Hague is scheduled to visit the luckless Lubyanka to brief staff at Express Newspapers next month. Normally he'd travel mob-handed with his perky new spin doctor, Amanda Platell. If she shows up, it could be another sticky encounter for Little Willy: Platell will be facing Rosie Boycott - the woman who fired her as editor of the *Sunday Express* less than three months ago.

CALL THE *Daily Mail* and get them to send a reporter to the Decima Gallery in London's Borough, pronto - there's enough material there to fill the paper for a week. The gallery's new show, running until 18 April, is called *Was Jesus a Homosexual?* (Readers of a sensitive or overly religious disposition are advised to move on to the next item now.)

Gilbert and George have installed part of a 100-year-old fountain they purchased recently, which featured the inscription "Jesus said if any man thirst let him come to me and let him drink". This now reads "Jesus said let him come". Another exhibit, Piers Wardle, has made a crucifix with wooden balls attached by a "string that can be played with" and called it *The Miracle of Holy Balls*. Charles Sayer's canvas of a naked woman, legs apart, is displayed alongside eight framed biblical texts and entitled *Anti-Christ I awake thee*. The piece de resistance is Andrew Putland's untitled triptych depicting a black Jesus and black disciples engaged in fellatio with Christ. The show is tactfully set to open on 2 April - Good Friday.

THIS ISN'T funny. You're not to laugh. But the mad mullahs of Tehran have just banned a fortnightly magazine, called *Artihex*, for running a

story "Is Joy Lost in Our City? Is Laughing a Sin?" Well apparently, yes.

GOLD RECORDS? Platinum albums? They're history. The new criterion for rock success is the diamond disc. Artists have to shift 10 million copies of a single album to qualify. Neil Diamond doesn't. Pink Floyd do. One person unlikely to be losing sleep over this is the Sixties popster Jess Conrad, who uniquely managed three tracks on Kenny Everett's all-time camp classic *World Worst Record Show* album. Conrad is "emotionally distraught" that his truly hideous single, "My Pullover", hasn't been included in this Saturday's Channel 4 *Top Ten: Really Annoying Records*. "There has obviously been a serious error in the research," the Buckinghamshire-based Conrad fumes.

THE NON-SMOKER Clint Eastwood (pictured) had to learn to chain-smoke non-filtered Camels to play a reporter in his new film *True Crime*. But his co-star Dennis Leary, who built his reputation on his own well-documented nicotine habit, was forced to abjure the weed while portraying Clint's non-smoking boss. Whatever happened to typecasting?

MICHAEL ASHCROFT, the Conservatives' millionaire leader of last resort, is sending increasingly desperate begging letters to MPs. The latest concerns the 1000 club, a questionable organisation where suits pay £1,000 a year for the privilege of meeting such influential international figures as the Vulcan-founding John Redwood and his dynamic *Doppelgänger*, Francis Maude. Ashcroft asked MPs to suggest at least one 1000 club candidate from their constituencies. Response was skeletal, so Ashcroft has named and shamed those who haven't come through with contacts: from a possible pool of 165 respondents, only 23 Tory MPs delivered the goods.

Embarrassingly, the 142 defaulters include two senior Tories who are celebrated for their impeccability and lack of heavy money connections: the oil trader Alan Duncan and Asda's head honcho Archie Norman.

Contact Pandora by e-mail: pandora@independent.co.uk

Girls are just too sensible for sport



SUE ARNOLD

I was brought up to believe that: 'Pigs sweat, gentlemen perspire, and ladies gently glow'

and cigarettes and working out furiously if, at the end of the day (for once this over-used expression is appropriate), you get to dance *Giselle*. But is all that sacrifice worth it just to be able to jump eight hurdles faster than seven other people and get a pat on the back from Desmond Lynam?

All right, I admit I'm biased. I'm half Burmese, and Orientals, par-

ticularly Oriental women, are not noted for their athletic prowess - with one exception. This was my great-grandmother who, according to my mother, was a lady-in-waiting to Queen Suppalat, chief wife to the last King of Burma.

My Burmese history is sketchy but I do know that the royal court of Ava was in Mandalay, surrounded by a deep moat. The night that the King and Queen abandoned their palace to the British, my great-grandmother apparently fled to safety by leaping into the moat and swimming for her life to the other side, carrying with her a 2-ft-tall Le Pe jar made of 24-carat gold (Le Pe is a form of ceremonial tea), which subsequently became a family heirloom. "So where is it now?" I asked my mother. She said, vaguely, that it must have got lost somewhere along the line, maybe when the Japanese invaded, which is a shame because a 2-ft-tall solid gold Le Pe jar once belonging to the last Queen of Burma would fetch a bob or two at Sotheby's, I'll bet.

Aside from the mysterious disappearance of the jar, there are a number of holes in this otherwise

romantic story. For one thing, it was a bloodless coup, so there would have been no need for my great-grandmother to flee for her life. She could have walked out of the palace with her bags, hailed the nearest rickshaw, piled her luggage on to it, including said jar, and trundled home to her village. If she swam across the moat it was because she chose to do so. Maybe she was in training for the 100 metres freestyle relay. Who knows? The other reason I'm inclined to doubt the authenticity of my mother's story is that no Burmese woman at that time, let alone a royal lady-in-waiting, would have known how to swim.

To this day my mother's family up in the Shan states have a horror of immodesty. When I visited them, they gave me strict instructions never, ever to wear a short skirt. Preferably I should adopt a *lungyi*, a Burmese-style sarong. There's no way anyone could swim in a *lungyi*.

But I digress. We were talking about the athletic prowess of British not Burmese women and their failure to bring back Olympic gold. One reason could be the dearth of glamorous role models. With few excep-

tions - ice skaters, gymnasts, certain tennis players and the late lamented Florence Griffith-Joyner, aka Flo-Jo, with her sexy tracksuits and incredible fingernails - sporty women are deeply unattractive.

Now and again the tabloids run features showing women shot-putters, women marathon runners and even, God help us, women rugby players looking alluring in little black dresses, but they are the exception not the rule.

Besides, when they are doing their sport they are neither wearing little black dresses nor looking alluring. They're wearing sweaty vests and sweaty socks and sweatbands. Call me old-fashioned, but I was brought up to believe in that old maxim "Pigs sweat, gentlemen perspire and ladies gently glow".

If instead of pumping themselves full of steroids to give themselves biceps like breeze blocks, women athletes could find an elixir that would render them sporty and feminine simultaneously, I might even buy myself a Liz McColgan mini-vest to wear above my *lungyi* and start training for next year's London marathon.

Sorry, comrades, the Serbs aren't nice old Communists



KEN LIVINGSTONE

We might have avoided the slaughter in Bosnia, but few on the left were prepared to speak out

the systematic brutality of the Serb monarch, and they seized the chance to escape.

But from the moment of Tito's death in 1980 it started to unravel. In 1981, there were protests and demonstrations throughout Kosovo as Albanians demanded stronger autonomy and the upgrading of their regional autonomy to an equivalence with the other six component republics. The Serbian Academy of Sciences began to stir up nationalism with a notorious report, published on 24 September 1986, that talked about historic injustices to the Serb people.

With Yugoslavia starting to fall apart, what would any responsible leader do? Try to pull people together? Build safeguards for minorities? Recognise their legitimate demands? What Milosevic did was to go to Kosovo to whip up a fury of Serbian resentment that could be ridden to power.

Many on the left view the Serbs as wonderful old Communists. Yet in the internal debates of the Yugoslav Communist party in the late

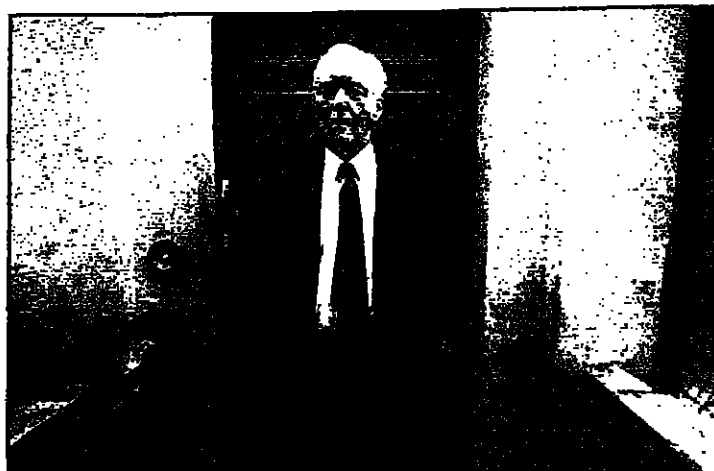
Eighties, the real old Communists warned, one after the other: "Beware of what you are doing. Beware of what you are unleashing." The British left failed to condemn Milosevic then, and also when he suspended the autonomy of Kosovo in 1989.

I called for the use of air strikes to stop Milosevic when he first sent troops into Slovenia in 1991. If we had acted then, we might not face the current disaster. We might have avoided the slaughter in Bosnia. But few on the left were prepared to speak out. This is not some imperialist attempt to establish control of the region. The reason 41 American senators have voted against intervening is they see no profit in it for America, and the fact that the West was silent as Tudjman organised the driving out of Serbs from Krajina was an outrage. Frankly, he should be under indictment for war crimes and for the liquidation of Serbian areas in Krajina.

However, that does not justify what Milosevic is now doing to the Albanians. When the Krajina refugees arrived in Belgrade they were not allowed off the train to seek comfort among their Serb neighbours. They were sent, against their will, to the Albanian areas of Kosovo to tip the balance of the population there.

If we were to stop the air strikes, would Milosevic stop the destruction of the Albanian areas in Kosovo? Of course not. He would recognise that action for what it was - a sign of weakness. He would press on, seizing every day, week and month, to carry on his "ethnic cleansing".

I see this action not as another Vietnam but as a classic parallel with the rise of Hitler in Germany. Hitler rose by exploiting fear of the Jews; Milosevic has risen by exploiting fear of Muslims. We heard Hitler



Tony Benn's opposition to the war shows the split on the left

demand: "All Germans within one state." That is exactly the cry we hear now from Milosevic: "intervene in Slovenia, in Croatia, in Bosnia so that all Serbs come under one nation". Europe cannot be so governed. Nationalities are scattered and mixed across the continent.

I hope our action will deter Milosevic. But we must not let him think that because some voices are raised against the bombing, he need simply hold on long enough for us to lose our will. It is not a matter of whether we continue bombing or stop it; if the bombing does not persuade Milosevic to treat his own people as human beings, the West should be prepared to send ground forces.

Referring to avoid the problem, some ask why intervene in Kosovo when horrors happen around the world? I agree with Bernie Grant who denounced the fact that the West stood by for so long while genocide happened in Rwanda. The end of the Cold War has made a more dangerous and deadly world for many minorities who find themselves on the wrong side of an

international border. Where we use power to protect the weak, I will support intervention, as I would have supported intervention in Rwanda.

The left is as deeply divided on this issue as the Tories. I don't know whether this split is the same as that which divided the House of Commons on appeasing Hitler. So that honest Labour pacifists find themselves in the same lobby as Tories who believe it is none of our business what happens in a small, faraway country. Ranged against them are the bulk of Labour MPs and what remains of the liberal-minded wing of the Tory party.

Or perhaps the division is between two camps: those who saw Communism as the only force capable of resisting Hitler and German aggression, and see the hand of modern Germany raised against an old Communist stalwart; and those of us who became politically conscious in the years between the invasions of Hungary and Czechoslovakia and never believed that the old Stalinist regimes were the route to the future.

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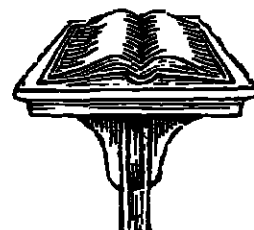
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A revolution in police attitudes



PODIUM

DENIS O'CONNOR
From a speech by the
Director of the
Metropolitan Police
Diversity Strategy on
institutional racism

THIS SHOULD be a defining moment for society in race matters - but will it be?

The Stephen Lawrence case has been profoundly damaging, starkly highlighting the problematic relationship between the police and the black community that dates back (at least) to the Sixties. Unless the police service can change significantly and can rely on external support to produce and sustain that change, the damage could be irreparable.

The report of the inquiry has now provided us with an "official" definition of institutional racism which does not make all staff out to be racist and which, by pointing out the unconscious nature of much racism, avoids fatally undermining institutional credibility. It provides a new standard of institutional vigilance, translating the definition into specific personal responsibilities for staff to position themselves at the right of each of four spectrums: Unwitting - Knowing; Ignorance - Awareness; Thoughtlessness - Thoughtfulness; Stereotyping - Treating people as individuals according to their needs.

Anti-racism in the Metropolitan Police will extend beyond general vigilance to focus not only on whether discrimination arises (unintentionally or otherwise); it will probe fully the reasons for different outcomes for different ethnic groups; and it will be alert to areas in which the significance of race may simply be overlooked. This approach is at the heart of our Diversity Strategy which we launched last September under the rallying cry of "Protect and Respect".

The Diversity Strategy already encompassed 32 of the 38 recommendations related to the police in the Lawrence report; and the early results are encouraging. Between the last quarter of 1997 and the same period in 1998: the reporting of racially motivated crime rose 101 per cent; 73 per cent more racially motivated crimes were solved; the arrest rate from stop searches at pilot sites rose from 12 per cent to 20 per cent, with similar rates for all ethnic groups.

So far, so good; but why the emerging divisions?

Partly, of course, they simply reflect the entrenched views of left and right. What's emerging

in the much wider, middle ground, though, is about two things. It's an argument about the degree of the influence of racism; but it's also an issue of coming to terms with what is really going on in our society.

To meet the challenge of avoiding polarisation, we shall need to find ways of uniting around common ground; and I think there are two anchor points around which we can mobilise. The first is the pro-

fessionalisation of policing; and the second is the application of the Convention of Human Rights.

With regard to the professionalisation of policing, a quiet revolution has been under way in recent years, leading to increasing specialisation - for example, in relation to child abuse. Among the areas where further improvement is urgently needed, the inquiry has also highlighted in particular: Family liaison for victims of race crime (we need real expertise here, especially if families lack confidence or indeed are alienated by the police);

A real understanding in conducting investigations of the sensitivities around race and race matters;

A much more challenging approach to reviewing investigations that are not succeeding.

Will that professionalism, together with greater vigilance about racism, suffice for policing at the millennium? Probably not.

For the key principles of the Convention not only require the use of police powers to avoid discrimination; they test the real value of applying a power at all in some circumstances. This suggests that it may be necessary to consider whether stop and search is an appropriate tactic to deal with an identified crime problem.

In conclusion, I am confident that we can make significant progress in pursuing the unfinished revolution in policing and in the provision and protection of the rights of all our people. But it will require considerable resolve. Adaptation on this scale will not be painless by any means; yet, as Martin Luther King reminded us in 1967: "Nothing could be more tragic than for men to live in these revolutionary times and fail to achieve the new attitudes and the new mental outlooks that the new situation demands."

JP 11/20/99

The legacy of appeasement



TIMOTHY GARTON ASH

We need a commitment of at least 10 years, tens of thousands of troops and billions of dollars

ALUSH GASHI was a small, wiry, bright-eyed man, a surgeon, a healer. When we met in Pristina, he explained to me, with quiet passion and in excellent English, what the Kosovar Albanians were trying to achieve with their movement of non-violent resistance. Now he is dead - shot by the Serbs running amok in Kosovo. I will remember him. And I will remember Fehmi Agani, the grey-suited, sly old professor who tried to negotiate a peaceful path to independence. I try to telephone other friends and acquaintances in Pristina, ringing all their numbers, but the lines are dead - and perhaps they are, too.

They were alive a few weeks ago. They might still be alive if we had not started this bombing that is supposed to help them. Does that mean we were wrong to bomb? Not necessarily. But we were wrong not to have done so much sooner. The time to stop Milosevic was in the autumn of 1991, when he sent his troops to besiege the Croatian town of Vukovar; but we, in Western Europe, were fiddling in Maastricht. In the Nineties, as in the Thirties, a decade of appeasement ends in a war much larger and more dangerous than it would have been at the beginning.

For seven years we gave no effective aid to the strictly non-violent efforts of people such as Alush Gashi and Fehmi Agani. We paid serious attention only when other Kosovar Albanians reached for the gun. Then we huffed and puffed for another year. "I hope Milosevic is listening - this is the last warning," said Robin Cook. That was in June 1998. Yes, we tried to negotiate a just peace at Rambouillet. But, as the Romans knew, if you want peace, you must prepare for war. And we knew that in the last few weeks Milosevic was pouring military and police forces into Kosovo.

Here was our second big mistake: to start the campaign without being prepared to follow through with troops on the ground if Milosevic reacted as he has. Of course, it's easy to be wise with hindsight. I myself thought he would probably back down at the last minute. But it was irresponsible not to plan for the worst case, which is now with us. In Serbia



A soldier waves a weary family of Kosovar refugees through the Macedonian border

Yannis Behrakis/Reuters

proper, the bombing has united people in defence of their country. Two days ago I talked by telephone to a liberal, anglophile friend in Belgrade, a fierce critic of Milosevic. He told me they were sitting in the cellar, cursing Clinton as a maniac and celebrating the shooting down of a Nato jet. The bombing has "united the whole nation", he said. If people like him are talking like that, what chance is there that senior army officers will turn against Milosevic at such a moment?

There are now two alternatives. One is just to go on bombing, and pretend that failure is success: an Orwellian exercise. The other is to prepare very rapidly to send in ground troops. For all the appalling difficulties of mountainous terrain, mined roads, unrelenting transit countries, restless allies and, above all, inevitable casualties, I reluctantly conclude that - if nothing changes for the better - this will become the lesser evil in a matter of days. If we go in while most of the Albanians are still there, Kosovo will not be "Europe's Vietnam", because the majority of the population - the Vietnamese, as it were - will be on our side. (However, our forces would also have to try to prevent Kosovar Albanians from taking revenge on innocent Serbs.)

The political object should be to make Kosovo an international protectorate, as it would effectively have been if the Serbs had signed the Rambouillet accord. We should try to get as many nations as possible involved - including, crucially, Russia. Ideally, it would become a United Nations trusteeship, for which the UN charter provides. Against the obvious objection that we would be invading a sovereign state, you could argue that Kosovo was a constituent part of former Yugoslavia - a republic in all but name - and that the international community has already accepted the republic's right to form separate political entities. Eventually, but only after a period as a protectorate, it could become the sovereign Republic of Kosovo - or Kosova (the Albanian spelling, with an a).

Coming on top of the existing protectorate in Bosnia, this would be a huge commitment. Yet the reality is still more daunting. If Milosevic lost Kosovo, the Serbs might finally lose patience with him. But in Belgrade last year I was repeatedly warned that what came after Milosevic could initially be worse, with a figure like the extreme nationalist Vojislav Seselj gaining power. At this, this would be a Weimar Serbia, bristling with revanchist senti-

ment. At worst, it would be a rogue state, like Libya or Iraq. On the other side, to Kosovo's east, you have a failed state: Albania. We could not take responsibility for the Albanians in Kosovo without doing something about the imploded, bankrupt, semi-anarchic motherland. To Kosovo's south, there is Macedonia, an unstable, divided country, with at least a quarter of its population being Albanian. To its north there is little Montenegro, the other constituent republic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which is trying to assert its own autonomy from Serbia. What if Milosevic - or his successor - turned his attention to crushing Montenegro?

RIGHT OF REPLY

DR PEGGY NORRIS



The chair of Against Legalised Euthanasia, Research & Teaching replies to our leader on mercy-killing

I TRUST your editorial "We should not be scared of euthanasia" (27 March) will alert readers to the inherent dangers of a law permitting the killing of sick or incapacitated people, even at their request. While the physically fit and healthy may believe they would rather be "euthanased" than be dependent on others to care for them, no one knows how he or she may feel when that time comes.

TC Warburg in his book *A Voice at Twilight* kept a diary of his thoughts and feelings during the last six months of his life. He was severely disabled, and required total care. Having read Ed's "Guide to Self-Deliverance," he approved of it. But then he changed his mind, and did not want "to take or lose my life. Glad there's no Euthanasia Bill through Parliament".

It would be ironic if Britain passed a euthanasia law. The hospice movement, founded here, has shown the world how patients with an incurable illness causing disability and pain can be helped by expert palliative care and drugs.

The evidence emerging from government reports in Holland proves that once killing is permitted, it is not possible to set secure limits. Doctors do not obey the rules; euthanasia is not reported.

It is tragic that the *British Medical Journal* on 16 January this year reported: "Police and health officials are investigating at least 50 deaths of patients around England amid accusations that the deaths were hastened by denying the patients intravenous fluids." Food and fluid are part of the normal care we owe to one another. The Department of Health's view of the Bland judgment, which labelled tube feeding "medical treatment", was that it "laid down legal principles which point a way forward". In fact it pointed 50 years back.

Lives fashioned in exile

WEDNESDAY BOOKS

DESERT FLOWER
BY WARIS DIRIE, VIRAGO, £10.99
SIBERIAN DREAM
BY IRINA PANTAIEVA, BANTAM, £6.99



A PAIR of really long legs can be a great advantage in life. It is strange to think how different these two models' memoirs would have been if Irina Pantaieva and Waris Dirie had been born of average height.

Both little less than 6ft, they sprang up tall and skinny in Siberia and Somalia respectively, where food and water were always short and where, they each discovered, it was a tremendous asset to be able to run fast - Irina from Soviet Communism and Waris from marriage to a 60-year-old (in exchange for five camels).

As nomads, both girls spend a lot of their books on the move. Pantaieva

may have had a happy home life in the small city of Ulan Ude, but in *Siberian Dream* she is never far from a bus stop, train station, airport or boat. Dirie spends the best part of her first six chapters running away from home across the desert, which involves having a close encounter with a lion and

then the assault of a truck driver. Fittingly, the same legs which enable their escapes also qualify them for entry into the fashion world, where they will tread the smoother surfaces of international catwalks. For both, going a long way is literally measured by how far they get from their home towns. That they will defy the odds and "make it" is never doubted.

"I was always looking for a way to make things better, push myself forward and find whatever that mysterious opportunity was that I knew was waiting for me," writes Dirie. While she believes that "survival is determined only by the strength of one's will", for Pantaieva "reality would be crafted by the tenacious and the creative". It is an interesting difference, for if Pantaieva's determination makes her lyrical, Dirie's makes her tough-talking.

What both share, however, is a strange, shifting language that melds their new environments with those of their origins, and which confuses moments of biographical revelation with the more impersonal lexicon of their industry. Neither *Siberian Dream* nor *Desert Flower*, for instance, would be out of place as a headline on a fashion shoot in a glossy magazine.

Strangely, the commercial language of fashion is not seen by either model as an intrusion on her personal voice, but as a validation of how far she has come, and a means of genuine identification. "I did make-up ads for Revlon, then later represented their new perfume, Agee," remembers Dirie. "The commercial announced, 'From the heart of Africa comes a fra-

grance to capture the heart of every woman.'" Dirie approves this use of "my exotic African look", though it is surely not exotic to her.

At her first Chanel casting, Pantaieva happily recalls hearing: "This is an incredible girl. Look at her face! Where has she been? Where did she come from?" It is a key moment for Irina. "I wished I could hold [it] in time and live it again and again," she says.

But what she perceives as an interest in her life is really the stylist's means of summing up the collection's "story" or message, for which Irina will become a vehicle. She mistakes the kind of admiration she receives. Fashion's constant search for the new intersects with an individual story, which then finds in fashion a meaning no less valid for being expressed through the formulae of an industry not best known for its sincerity.

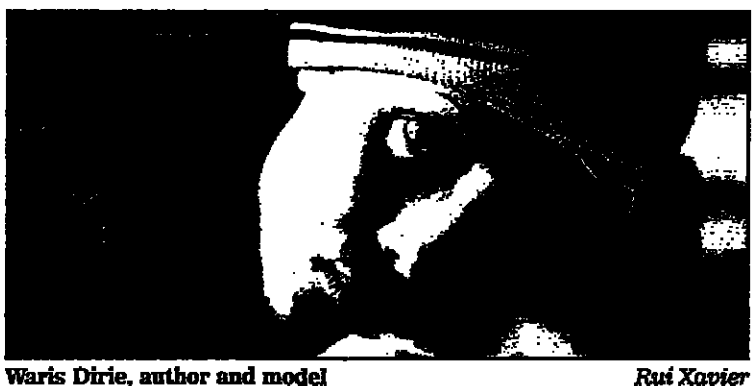
Fashion represents an opportunity for role play; for being the centre of

attention in a way neither woman's cultures had ever permitted. But whereas Pantaieva's childhood of dressing up and sewing through the night to make clothes for the next day finds its just fulfilment in her life as a model, Dirie's biography does not. Nor does it when she resolves her passport problem; nor does it when she marries Nigel in order to stay in England; nor does it when she finally marries a man she loves.

Dirie's real interest lies elsewhere. She is most coherent when speaking against female circumcision, which she herself suffered aged five and which she now campaigns against with the UN. As she runs through these various strands without weaving them together, her memoir lacks the direction of Pantaieva's. At times, reading *Desert Flower* feels like looking at a photo album of somebody else's holiday snaps.

At the close of their memoirs, Irina and Waris are both married, both living in America, but where do they go from here? Both have collected and recollected their experiences in memoirs like various pieces of baggage, but neither seems sure where to take them next, if anywhere. One thing only is sure: you have to admire them.

PAULA COCOZZA



Waris Dirie, author and model

Rut Xavier

WEDNESDAY POEM

SIESTA
BY JUDY GAHAGAN

Three slow hours, bell-stunned hours,
slow as drugged words, Burma-slow,
stupor the moments.
These are southern hours for sleep.

In rooms, gloam-dim rooms, stone
still, heat-heavy tombs for sleeping,
sun glows still on
lids, closed before the marble stare

of kings. Such sleep is South.
Dreams rise, calm and warm as peaches.
Sleepers soaked in peace stir
in the eyeless smiles of crumbling gods.

These hours in days as vast
as seas, in vase-shaped afternoons,
poised within the sun's big arch,
emblem the last persisting innocence.

This poem comes from *Crossing No-Man's Land* by Judy Gahagan, published at £6.95 by Flambard Press, Stable Cottage, East Fourstones, Hexham NE47 5DX

KOSOVO CRISIS APPEAL

In the past few days tens of thousands of refugees from Kosovo have crossed into Albania and Macedonia. Many are frightened and traumatised. They face a bleak and uncertain future.

The Red Cross is at the forefront of the humanitarian response. Our local networks and international expertise enable us to distribute food, bedding and hygiene parcels.

The Red Cross is acting in its neutral and impartial capacity to help all victims of the Kosovo crisis. We urgently need your donation to ensure we can continue to provide this support.

British Red Cross
Registered Charity No. 220849

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Answer this number with your mobile phone or landline. Or send a cheque or postal order with this coupon to us.

Yes, I want to help the people of Kosovo.

I enclose a cheque / postal order (payable to British Red Cross) for

☐ £250 ☐ £50 ☐ £30 ☐ £25 Other £

Or please debit my Visa / Mastercard / Amex / Diners Club / Switch Card

Expiry date _____ Switch issue no. _____ Today's date _____

Signature _____

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Address _____

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Please send this coupon with your donation to: THE BRITISH RED CROSS, ROOM 720, FREEPOST, LONDON, SW13 7JL. A donation of £250 or more is worth almost a third as much again through Gift Aid as we can claim back the tax.

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Lucien Aigner

LUCIEN AIGNER'S photographs were of the famous or the unknown, the dramatic or the commonplace.

All of his images – whether a statement about world peace in one of his series at the League of Nations in the Twenties, his coverage of people and life in France, England and the United States in the Thirties, his unforgettable essays on La Guardia's City Hall, Riker's Island Prison, pre-Second World War Harlem, Einstein at work, and prayers on D-Day in the Forties, or his photography of children in the Fifties and Sixties – are meaningful because Aigner committed himself to film only after he had made up his mind what he wanted to say.

His portraits possess an impressive vitality: he was the world's famous – Hitler, Mussolini, Churchill, Gandhi, the Roosevelts, Haile Selassie and other major figures of the time – or of his friends and neighbours in The Berkshires of Massachusetts. He was primarily a thinker and philosopher and only then a photographer.

The seminal German picture magazines of the early Thirties and the invention of a small camera, the Leica, spawned a select group of key photographers: Erich Salomon, Alfred Eisenstaedt, Robert Capa and Henri Cartier-Bresson. Lucien Aigner is of that vintage, but is one of the least known "pioneers of photojournalism".

It was the acknowledged "godfather of photojournalism", Stefan Lorant, who commented of his fellow countryman: "What sets him apart from other 'picture takers' is his fervent dedication to his work. He belongs to a minuscule band of camera artists who do not press the button in a mad rush but ponder and think before they let the shutter go."

Ladislav (Lucien) Aigner was born in Érsekújvár in Hungary, now Nove Zamky, Czechoslovakia, in 1901. He emigrated to the United States in 1939, becoming naturalised in 1945. As with many of his contemporaries photography was not

the profession for which he originally trained. He studied at Prague University in 1920; theatre and acting at Friedrich Wilhelm University and Reichersche Dram Hochschule, Berlin, between 1921 and 1922; and then law at the University of Budapest between 1922 and 1924.

Aigner was part of the creative explosion of Hungarian talent that dispersed during the Twenties through the cultural capitals of Europe. He was intrigued as to why the Hungarians were so strong in what was to become photojournalism, and believed that he belonged to a nation of storytellers who learned their trade through spending hours in the coffee houses. Though superficial as an art form, for him photojournalism was only another way of storytelling.

"While I have a great respect for

Zeitung, the *Münchener Illustrierte Presse*, *VU*, *Illustration*, *Weekly Illustrated*, *Lilliput*, and *Picture Post*.

In 1939 he moved to the heady excitement of New York. He continued to freelance but not always successfully. Technically an "enemy alien" and prohibited from photographing war-related subjects, he turned his attention elsewhere.

Talking of his Harlem, New York, photographs he observed, "I photographed black people when it was not good manners". For Aigner, these were commercially lean years when he often struggled to make a living. "I sometimes hated photography. It caused me too much suffering, too many frustrations." His early work consistently shows a sense of humour, often with a sardonic edge and a remarkable gestural quality that

summer of 1954 and found harmony in this region of outstanding natural beauty. The Berkshires had long been the home of well-known figures in the arts. Nearby, Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote *Tanglewood Tales*, Analin Phelps Stokes penned his monumental *Church and State* volumes and Herman Melville wrote *Moby Dick*. A few miles to the north is Tanglewood, where the Boston Symphony Orchestra gives concerts throughout the summer months. Yet another mid-European's wanderings were over when, the same year, at Great Barrington, he opened his commercial studio consisting of two floodlights and a Rolleiflex.

This peaceful studio was not the end of Aigner's European adventures, rather it became the centre of them. In 1970 he opened a battered old suitcase which had survived the Nazi occupation and been brought out of Paris by his brother, Etienne (better known for his exclusive leather goods), after the Liberation. Inside were about 50,000 negatives, the entire product of Aigner's European career. Finding this treasure trove coincided with an increased awareness and value of the photographic print and he began to develop his entire collection – about 100,000 negatives including his work in the United States – as a major source of historic documentation.

"Pictures produce impact, writing adds meaning. Pictures without words are often ambiguous, words without pictures lame. To gather material for a written story requires painstaking, continuous effort in time while catching situations in pictures requires concentration on the instantaneous." Uniquely Lucien Aigner did both.

MICHAEL HALLETT

Ladislav (Lucien) Aigner, photojournalist: born Érsekújvár, Hungary 14 September 1901; twice married (two sons, two daughters); died Waltham, Massachusetts 29 March 1999.



Thinker first, photographer second: Aigner in 1932

Lucien Aigner Museum

'I have always been suspicious of the cliché about one picture being worth a thousand words... Pictures produce impact, writing adds meaning'

the photographic medium," Aigner observed, "I feel that pictures are not enough to say what needs saying. I have always been suspicious of the cliché about one picture being worth a thousand words." Perhaps that is why Aigner was equally at home using both photographs and words. He became a writer for *Az Est*, a Hungarian newspaper group in Budapest, in 1924 even before he had considered using a camera seriously. It was to give him an edge over his contemporaries who were absorbed only in images and visual picture stories. Aigner was interested in the total integration of images and text.

Living in Paris in the Thirties provided opportunity for him to work freelance. This was to be his most prolific period and he contributed features to the *Berliner Illustrierte*

compensates in energy for what is lost in detail. Later photographs of the New York period reflect the more formal style of American magazine photography, indicative of a more conscious relationship between photographer and subject and a more directorial attitude.

By 1947 Aigner's career as a full-time photojournalist was virtually at an end and during the next six years he crafted words again as an announcer, scriptwriter and producer-director in the Hungarian section of the Voice of America. For Aigner this was "a glorious experience" and "the discovery of a new world" which ended in the political backwash of the McCarthy witch-hunts of the Fifties.

Aigner visited Great Barrington, Massachusetts, at the tail-end of the

H. V. Hodson

H. V. HODSON was a distinguished editor of the *Sunday Times* not of the previous dispensation, but of the one before that. Before Rupert Murdoch acquired the paper and installed Andrew Neil to make it what it is today, it enjoyed under Denis Hamilton and then Harry Evans what many recall as a golden age, characterised by aggressive investigative journalism, uninhibited cultural reporting and irrepressible features.

Harry Hodson's *Sunday Times* was very different but in its way equally successful. Under his editorship, which lasted from 1950 to 1961, the circulation roughly doubled and passed one million, then a prodigious figure for a serious newspaper. Hodson found its proprietors, the first Viscount Kemsley, so difficult that on at least one occasion he came close to resignation. For, where Kemsley was a crusty conservative on social as well as political and economic issues, Hodson was a liberal conservative, in favour, for example, of liberalisation of the laws concerning homosexuality.

Hodson's intellectual pedigree, in fact, was that of liberal imperialism in general, and of the brand associated with the group known as Milner's Kindergarten in particular. The Kindergarten came together as a group of very able young men, including the politician and novelist



Hodson: liberal imperialism

John Buchan, the constitutional scholar Lionel Curtis, the banker Robert Brand and many others, who were determined to create a liberal regime in South Africa that would reconcile the Afrikaner and British South Africans; their interest in Africans was limited to vague paternalistic goodwill.

There was a close link between the Kindergarten and All Souls College, Oxford, to which Harry Hodson was elected, from Balliol, in 1928. As a young academic, Hodson's interest was in the British Empire, and his standpoint was that of a liberal imperialist, concerned to devise structures that would allow gradual

progress in the direction of self-government. It is fair to say that he and his colleagues were so aware of opposition from bilms and business interests alike that they were cautious to the verge of immobilism.

Hodson took on first the assistant editorship, then from 1934 the editorship, of the Kindergarten's house journal, *The Round Table*. He also carried out with probity and intellectual clarity a number of assignments on behalf of what would now be called the Establishment, of which he was a card-carrying member. With his elegant bowler hat and rolled umbrella, and fastidious good manners, not to mention his membership of Brooks's Club and his Mastership of the Mercers' Company, one of the wealthiest and most influential City livery companies, he both looked the part and clearly enjoyed playing it. As a young don he published a number of books about the world economic crisis and about imperial problems, from the point of view of benevolent rulers, rather than from that of the ruled.

On the outbreak of the Second World War he became head of what was called the Empire Division of the Ministry of Information. In 1941 he was sent to India as the "Reforms Commissioner" in New Delhi. Those experiences informed a series of books about the future of empire, of which the most notable was perhaps

The Great Divide: Britain-India-Pakistan, published in 1969. By that time, in a way that seems quaint today, he had become the assistant editor and later the editor of one of the most influential newspapers in the country with virtually no previous journalistic experience.

Even more quaint, to those who have worked on Sunday newspapers in less leisurely times, was the clause in his contract that allowed him not to have to come into the office on Saturdays except in times of dire emergency. Although Hodson had good personal relations with Roy Thomson and indeed with the brash, very non-All Souls journalists brought into the paper by the new regime, it was clear that the new journalism was not for him.

Instead he found an ideal niche from which to contribute his knowledge of high politics and international affairs as Director – he preferred to call it "Provost" – of the Anglo-American "think-tank" (not a term that would have appealed to Harry Hodson) at Ditchley Park, the Palladian mansion of Ronald and Marietta Tree in the north Oxfordshire woods. There he presided over conferences that encouraged high-minded thinking of what came to be called an "Atlanticist" tone. Alternative visions were discouraged in a civilised manner, and the prevailing idea was the special

relationship Britain might have as the ally of the United States.

In later years Hodson served as the editor of the *Annual Register* and as a consultant, and for a long time continued to attend weekly leader conferences at the *Sunday Times*. As an Anglican layman he also took an active part in Old Chelsea Church.

It is hard to recall Harry Hodson's life without the feeling that he was a devoted and civilised servant of a number of lost causes, among them the British Empire, the ideal of a gentlemanly journalism, and a special relationship between a rampantly self-confident America and a diminished Britain.

GODFREY HODGSON

Henry Vincent Hodson, journalist: born London 12 May 1906; *Fellow, All Souls College, Oxford* 1928-35; *Assistant Editor, The Round Table* 1931-34; *Editor* 1934-39; *Director, Empire Division, Ministry of Information* 1939-41; *Reforms Commissioner, Government of India* 1941-42; *Principal Assistant Secretary/Head of Non-Munitions Division, Ministry of Production* 1942-45; *Assistant Editor, Sunday Times* 1946-50; *Editor* 1950-61; *Provost of Ditchley* 1961-71; *Master, Mercers' Company* 1964-65; *Editor, Annual Register* 1973-88; married 1933 Margaret Honey (four sons); died London 27 March 1999.

Devora Peake

DEVORA PEAKE was a fruit farmer and a businesswoman. A change in EU rules in 1969 had meant that she and her husband Bill Peake could no longer sell their smaller or irregularly shaped apples as eating apples, despite the fact that there was no change in their taste or quality. So they brought presses to extract the juice from this fruit, which they marketed as a healthy drink. This was the genesis of one of the country's best-known apple juices, Copella (an acronym of the initial letters of Cox's Orange Pippin plus the end of the name of their youngest daughter, Carmella). At a time when French Golden Delicious apples were a serious threat, Devora Peake championed the English apple.

Born in Tel Aviv in 1915, Devora Peake was the child of Russian immigrants. Her father owned almond and orange groves, and she could remember being afraid of the snakes and scorpions that inhabited them. At the American University of Beirut she read commerce and economics. Later she worked for the Middle East Agency of Lloyd's Underwriters and for United Artists and RKO, handling workmen's compensation claims.

She was about to come to Britain to study fire insurance when she met and married a Jewish English farmer, engineer and inventor, Bernard Loshak. Devora was only 14 when they first met. He was walking through an orange grove when he heard someone whistling the "Kreutzer" Sonata: it was her father, and an acquaintance was struck up.

Devora and Bernard Loshak settled on his 120-acre fruit farm in Boxford, Suffolk. They were divorced shortly after the Second World War but remained on friendly terms. She kept the land because he felt she was the better farmer, and more likely to make a go of it. Devora married her second husband, Bill Peake, in 1948, who had been in the Admiralty during the war. They met at Champney's health farm, where he was convalescing and she was recovering from her divorce; they played chess together.

Soon they bought additional land. In the summer of 1958 East Anglia suffered a terrible drought, and Devora's experience in Palestine alerted her to the need for the farm to have its own irrigation system. Helped by the Agricultural Mortgage Corporation and the banks, she was able to install what was at the time the largest private irrigation scheme in Europe. The apples grew big and juicy and the farm prospered.

Having turned the EU restrictions into a business opportunity, the Peakes saw the sales of Copella grow until by the end of the 1980s it was available throughout the country in supermarkets, delicatessens, health food shops and even hotels and restaurants. Free from colouring, sweeteners or added water, it was

the leading brand in the apple-juice market, and there was some demand for it in export markets. The enormous potential required resources beyond the means of the family. Then in 1989, as part of his BBC-TV *Troubleshooters* series, Sir John Harvey Jones visited Copella, and advised selling that part of the business to the Taunton Cider Company, which they did.

Several family members continued to be involved, working under contract to the new owners. Then in 1992, to everyone's surprise, the family bought back Copella, and expanded it with the addition of Cawston Vale and Copella chilled juices. A Royal Warrant was granted by the Prince of Wales in December 1997, and just after that the business was acquired by Tropicana UK, the leading juice brand in the country. Devora's sons-in-law continue to be involved, with Stephen Unwin as managing director and Roger Rendall as consultant.

In addition to the Copella subsidiary, there were still the fruit and farming businesses, and these expanded, with more land being bought, to a total of 900 acres, including land in Ardeifeigh and an interest in a farm in Colchester. Four hundred acres produce fruit, not only apples but also strawberries, raspberries and tayberries, cherries and elderflower. Of the remaining farm land, 50 acres are grassland and woodland, and 200 acres arable.

Two hundred acres that were deemed unsuitable for orchards were developed in 1970 and became the Stoke-by-Nayland Golf Club. Bill Peake himself designed two championship courses and a design award-winning clubhouse set around reservoirs. (He died of cancer in 1978.) The golf club is currently being expanded, along with a "Peake Fitness" health centre and a conference centre. In 1997 the golf club won the Bale Award, an initiative by the Suffolk Agricultural Association to find the best alternative use of agricultural land; it also won a *Times* architectural award.

There was further diversification in 1990, when the family bought Plantsman Ardeifeigh Storage, a fruit packing and storage company, which changed its image last year, and is one of the country's most innovative top and soft fresh fruit packing and marketing companies. It supplies all the retail multiples with top and soft fruit, and the brand of Peake Fruit is now being developed.

PAUL LEVY

Devora Yaffa Lubareky, fruit-farmer and businesswoman: born Tel Aviv, Palestine 28 May 1915; MBE 1996; married first Bernard Loshak (one son, one daughter; marriage dissolved), second Bill Peake (died 1978; three daughters); died Colchester, Essex 24 March 1999.

Richard Allen

RICHARD ALLEN was an abstract painter and printmaker who also found time to teach and work as an exhibition and art consultant, among many other interests.

During the 1960s he was primarily associated with the Op Art Movement and became part of Bridget Riley and Peter Sedgley's Match Shed artists co-operative in London. In 1971 he became a member of the Matrix Group organised by Malcolm Hughes, which included the artists Geoffrey Steele and Michael Kidner. Allen exhibited extensively from this time and his work was selected, among others, by Nicholas Serota for his "Systems Art" show at the Whitechapel Gallery in London in 1972 and in "British Painting '74" at the Hayward Gallery. Allen was one of the first Op artists to show at the new Angela Flowers Gallery in 1971 and an exhibition of his recent paintings will be shown there in May this year.

His paintings of this period were often large and brightly coloured but during the mid-Seventies he abandoned colour to work primarily in monochrome and using a grid structure, with charcoal, cellulose

acetate and wax on canvas and paper. His most recent works showed a return to limited colour and oil paint.

His last series of paintings, entitled *White Paintings* 1995-1997, have a serene and peaceful quality. A number of these were included in a recent large retrospective of his work, "Richard Allen 1957-97", held at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, last October, which will also be shown in May at the Jersey Arts Centre in St Helier.

In all he held 21 solo exhibitions, including shows at the Institute of Contemporary Art, London (1975), Gallery Takagi Nogoya, in Japan (1982), Exeter University (1985) and the Printworks Gallery, Chicago (1998). His work has been widely exhibited and examples can be found in many leading collections, among them those of the Arts Council, of the British Council, the National Academy of Art, New Delhi and the Museums of Modern Art of Lodz, Skopje and Florida; and the universities of Hull and Aberystwyth.

Allen was born in Worcester in 1933. After leaving school he worked for a while in agriculture, and

during 1952-54 underwent National Service in Korea and Japan. In 1955 he entered the Worcester School of Art and in 1957 he attended Bath Academy of Art, Corsham, where he gained his Art Teacher's Certificate in 1960. While at Corsham, which was then led by the inspirational principal Clifford Ellis, Allen was taught by some of the leading abstract artists of the day, including Adrian Heath and Howard Hodgkin.

During 1961 he studied in Italy on an Italian government scholarship and in April that year married Evelyn Laurens, a fellow student at Corsham. By 1964 he was teaching full-time at Croydon College of Art alongside the abstract artists Bridget Riley and John Hoyland. In 1965 he left Croydon and in 1966 he was a Commonwealth Fine Art Scholar in India. The following year he was awarded a Fine Art Fellowship at Sussex University.

After 1967 Allen decided that he did not wish to teach full-time but became a popular and influential visiting lecturer at many colleges and universities until the end of his life, including the Royal College

of Art, the Slade School, Reading, Aberystwyth and the London School of Printing.

He also worked as an exhibition consultant and designer, and will be particularly remembered for his successful series of exhibitions at the Polytechnic of Central London, Regent Street, which included paintings, photography and prints by many important artists. While living in Jersey between 1979 and 1991 he did a great deal to help promote local contemporary art. He was involved in advising the Jersey International Arts Festival and one of his design projects was to produce a new sign system for the Jersey Wildlife Foundation.

In 1991 Allen moved to Whitby-on-Wye, Herefordshire and started to teach at the University of Wales School of Art, Aberystwyth, and during this time he joined the Teaching Quality Assessment panel of the HERCW (Higher Education Funding Council for Wales).

Richard Allen was a gentle and kind man, a devoted father and husband. He was at his happiest working in his studio with his wife Eve nearby, busy in their much-



Allen: serene quality

loved garden. Sadly, she died of cancer in 1997, during this traumatic period Allen began to show early symptoms of motor neurone disease, which was finally diagnosed a few months after his wife's death. He moved to London last year, and spent much of his time designing work on his computer.

ROBERT TILLING

Richard Allen, artist, teacher, designer and art consultant: born Worcester 8 February 1933; married 1961 Evelyn Laurens (died 1997; two daughters); died London 9 February 1999.

27/4/1999

Major Pat Riley

WHILE SERVING as a lieutenant in North Africa, David Stirling conceived the idea of small raiding parties which would infiltrate behind enemy lines and destroy Rommel's aircraft and supply dumps. This bold and audacious idea ultimately found favour with his commander-in-chief, General Claude Auchinleck, and in July 1941 I Detachment SAS Brigade was born. It was called a brigade to deceive the enemy but it consisted of only 62 men. Among the first to volunteer was Sergeant Pat Riley.

The first Special Air Service raid in November 1941 on Timimi and GAZALA involved a parachute drop. Launched in a fierce wind, it was a disaster and only 22 out of 64 men survived death or captivity. Riley's aircraft, containing 11 men, was the only one later to rendezvous intact with the Long Range Desert Group (LRDG). The failure of this first operation could have been a fatal blow to the newborn unit, but lessons were learnt and, with Riley now its Regimental Sergeant-Major, within weeks small teams of sometimes no more than five men, this time transported by the LRDG, were successfully carrying out raids and destroying aircraft on airfields: 37 at Agabadia and 17 at Tumeit. In Riley's first raid led by Stirling, 18 of Rommel's vital needed petrol bowzers (petrol tanker lorries) and four food dumps were destroyed at Bouerat Harbour.

Riley's next raid, on Slonta, where they were unable to surmount the airfield defences, was less successful. None the less, with the SAS expanding, he was put in charge of training the new volunteers, who included a French squadron. He was much involved in the large-scale raid on Benghazi Harbour in September 1942. Unfortunately the enemy had been alerted and it proved almost impossible to penetrate the harbour. In the fierce fighting the SAS lost 50 out of the 200 men involved.

However, with these daring and spectacular raids on Rommel's supplies

and aircraft, of which 320 were destroyed, the SAS had not only established itself but had changed the face of war. Pat Riley, an astute reader of officers and men, was the perfect man in adversity, fathering and giving confidence to his young soldiers. He was a steady influence throughout the campaign and often the mediator between its diverse characters. For his work in North Africa he was awarded the DCM.

Riley was born in Wisconsin in 1915, the eldest of five children. At the age of seven his family moved to Haltwhistle in Cumbria where he attended the local school until he was 14 when he started work in a granite quarry alongside his father and grandfather.

Finding the work unfulfilling, he joined the TA, before enlisting into the Coldstream Guards in 1932. Celebrating before joining up and having missed the last bus, he "borrowed" a local farmer's horse and rode back to Haltwhistle where he tied the horse to a neighbour's fence.

At the outbreak of war he volunteered for 2 Troop 8 Guards Command, part of Layforce under Lt-Col Bob Laycock, part of which was sent to the Western Desert in 1941. (While there he heard that he had received his call-up papers for the United States Army.) However the Commando units were too large and immobile to execute surprise raids successfully, though Riley's troop led by Lt Jock Lewis launched a surprise raid in the Fig Tree sector, part of the defence of Tobruk. Getting under the wire they caused considerable casualties. After the disbandment of Layforce, Riley returned to the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards. Restless for action, he was quick to volunteer for David Stirling's newborn SAS based at Kabrit.

By the beginning of 1943, with Stirling now a POW and Jock Lewis dead, the charismatic Paddy Mayne took command of the SAS. Riley, who was now a Captain, saw action with the regiment in Italy before returning to Scot-



Riley: founder member of the SAS

land to set up a camp at Marichline before moving to its permanent camp in Darvel. For the SAS had now swollen to the size of a brigade, with two British battalions, two Free French battalions and a Belgian squadron.

When the SAS moved south to their new HQ at Highland House in Chelmsford, Riley was in charge of recruiting and training before operations in France. After D-Day mobility was the key and Riley, still based at Chelmsford, ensured that all the new troops were properly equipped for action behind the enemy lines. The SAS, now 2,500 strong under Brigadier Roddie MacLeod, were to form a number of bases from which to harry enemy communications, and work with the French resistance, blowing up roads and railway lines and reporting to the RAF suitable areas to bomb. It was very much as David Stirling had proposed in the early days: inflict damage, casualties and above all, confusion.

After the Armistice, two battalions of the SAS were airlifted to Norway where Riley, based at Bergen, was involved in the supervision and dismantling of the occupying German forces. With Paddy Mayne commanding, there was scope

for relaxation, but word was about that the SAS was going to be disbanded. Rumour became reality in September 1945. Little could anyone have thought then that the SAS would six years later be reborn.

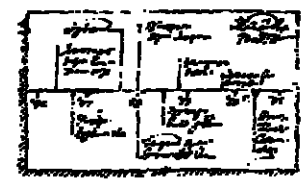
On demobilisation Riley joined the Cambridge Constabulary, but restless with peacetime inactivity he volunteered for the Malayan Regiment in 1950 where he worked closely with the newly formed Malayan Scouts in their actions against Communist insurgents. The Scouts had been formed from men of the 21 SAS, a Territorial Army unit raised in 1947 from the Artists Rifles and a Rhodesian squadron. In 1961 the Scouts became 22 SAS. Riley, who was based at Port Dixon and now a major, laised and worked with the SAS in the persecution of the terrorists. With over 100 terrorists killed or captured, the SAS had proved their worth as an integral part of British counter-insurgency operations.

When Riley turned 40, in 1955, he decided to leave Malaya and with his wife purchased the Dolphin Hotel in Colchester. Three years later he joined Securicor, where he held various senior positions until his retirement in 1980, by which time he was living in Hastings. Although he had been in good health, he continued to play bridge and with another ex-SAS member held a number of regional tournaments.

Pat Riley never came to terms with the loss of his wife, Kaye, in 1996 and much of his enthusiasm for life seemed to ebb away. Even on his last day, surrounded by his family and in good humour, he reminisced about his life and in particular his wartime experiences, remembering every moment.

MAX ARTHUR

Charles George Gibson ("Pat") Riley, soldier: born Red Granite, Wisconsin 24 November 1915; DCM 1942; married 1940 Kaye Ward (died 1996; one son); died Hastings, East Sussex 9 February 1999.



HISTORICAL NOTES ROBERT RHODES JAMES

Grim, eloquent facts of Gallipoli

NO CAMPAIGN of either world war has aroused more controversy than the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915. It remains the most fascinating of campaigns, replete with "night-haunts", or, as Churchill expressed it, "the terrible 'ifs' accumulate".

Although the quality of the substantial Gallipoli literature has been, and remains, very high, there have been exceptions. As John North wrote, "No battleground so easily lends itself to retrospective sentimentality", and, sadly, to mythology.

The Australian mythology is that it was entirely an Australian operation botched by incompetent British commanders. The Turkish version is that it was all a personal triumph for their national hero Mustafa Kemal, later Atatürk. Not too many Australians know, or want to know, that 35 per cent of the original Anzacs were British-born first-generation Australians, or that the best Allied general on the Peninsula was Harold Walker, the commander of the 1st Australian Division, and the architect of the capture of the fortress of Lone Pine. Like the Anzac commander, Birdwood, he was British.

One can have more sympathy for the Turkish mythologists. Kemal became President and Father of the Nation and a hard tyrant. Although he is long dead, his shadow survives him. The real Turkish commanders,

the Germans von Sanders and Kannengieser, have been accordingly airbrushed out of the Turkish version.

The folly of this is that there is no need for mythology. The underestimated Turkish soldier was a revelation in defending his country. Kemal's interventions on 25 April and 10 August were decisive. The defence of the tiny Anzac position by the Australians and New Zealanders, increasingly ravaged by dysentery and typhoid, and the subsequent August break-out, is one of the epics of modern warfare.

But, as the casualty lists grimly demonstrate, the prize burden fell upon the British and French at Helles, and later at Suvla. While the Anzacs hung on resolutely during that torrid summer the British and the French were slowly advancing north, but at heavy cost. By the time of the brilliant evacuations of the Suvla Anzac and Helles positions, without a single casualty, under the nose of the Turks in December 1915 and January 1916, the British dead were 26,000, the French 10,000, the total Anzac dead 10,000.

In proportion to their male populations the Anzac losses were far worse than these bald statistics, which explain why Gallipoli is so important a part of their national histories, and why Anzac Day has always been, and remains, so important to them.

And Gallipoli was hardly the disaster it has been often depicted. Grievous though the Allied casualties were, those of the Turks were horrific, largely the result of heroic but futile headlong attacks in broad daylight, and for which Kemal was as guilty as anyone.

There are no reliable figures for the Turkish dead, but 200,000 is generally considered an underestimate. The Turkish army was never the same again. And, less than three years after the evacuation, the British occupied the Gallipoli Peninsula without a shot. The Navy sailed to Constantinople, and the vast Ottoman Empire had disintegrated. But it was three years too late.

Compared with the terrible battles on the Western Front, with infinitely greater losses, the Gallipoli venture was seen as the one real stroke of imagination and daring in the entire war - and one that so narrowly failed.

The facts of Gallipoli speak for themselves. They are as eloquent as the small and beautifully maintained Commonwealth war cemeteries, and the forbidding sinister bleakness of the arid Peninsula itself. Of the 36,000 British and Anzac dead, only some 7,000 have known graves. The Turks, their dead incinerated, have none.

Sir Robert Rhodes James is the author of 'Gallipoli' (Pimlico, £12.50)

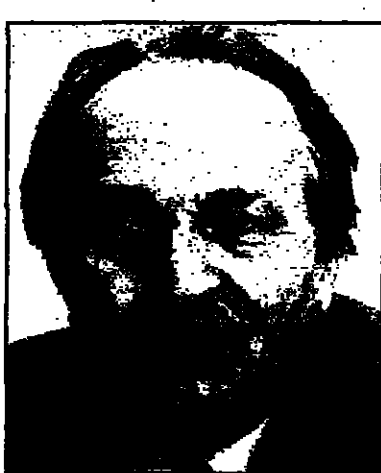
Vyacheslav Chornovil

VYACHESLAV CHORNOVIL, who was killed in a late-night car crash as he was returning to Kiev from an election meeting, managed the difficult transition from Soviet-era dissident to politician, but never quite achieved the success he had hoped for in realising his ideal of an independent Ukrainian state.

Leader since 1992 of Narodny Rukh ("Popular Movement"), one of the main nationalist parties, he was a member of the Ukrainian parliament. As party leader he faced a difficult choice, whether to support the ex-Communists who had turned reformers, such as the current president Leonid Kuchma, or to side with the opposition, which was largely made up of Communists who had not disavowed their past.

A veteran of the Brezhnev, Andropov and Chernenko era labour camps, Chornovil was quick to take advantage of the openness under Mikhail Gorbachev to revive the activities of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group. He was a constant advocate of national rights and supporter of independence for Ukraine. He was instrumental in forming the pro-independence Rukh in 1989.

At the first semi-free local elections in March 1990, Rukh swept the board in the more nationalist western Ukraine and Chornovil became head of the Lviv regional council, the first former politi-



Chornovil: 'soul of the prison block'

cal prisoner to attain such high office in the Soviet Union. He immediately brought in radical measures such as the privatisation of land, shops and homes and ousted the Communist Party from its privileged position.

As confusion over the ill-fated putsch against Gorbachev reigned in Moscow in August 1991, Chornovil was one of the most vocal initiators of a vote in Ukraine's parliament which approved breaking away from the Soviet Union. The vote was later confirmed in a nationwide referendum. But Chornovil came second

to Ukraine's first post-Soviet president Leonid Kravchuk in the 1991 presidential election with a quarter of the vote.

Chornovil was born the son of village schoolteachers in central Ukraine in 1937, and studied journalism at Kiev University. He began work as a journalist in the city before moving to the western town of Lviv. By now already active in the burgeoning human rights movement, he had been deeply affected by the wave of arrests that struck nearly two dozen Ukrainian intellectuals during the previous year and produced an account of this persecution that was later published in English as *The Chornovil Papers* (1988).

He was ousted from a Lviv newspaper in 1986 for refusing to testify at a political trial and was himself arrested in 1987 and sentenced to three years in prison, a term later cut in half. After release he became head of the Ukrainian Helsinki Monitoring Group and edited the underground publication *the Ukrainian Herald*. In 1972, he was again arrested and sentenced to six years in prison and three years in exile for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda". His strength of character was evident to his fellow political prisoners in labour camp. "The soul of the prison block is Chornovil," one wrote during a 100-day hunger strike in the summer of 1977.

"Conversations between cells are forbidden, but every day he reads us the latest news. The head of the camp, Pitkul, called Chornovil our general." He served his term in exile in the Siberian region of Yakutia. In April 1980, the Soviet authorities again sentenced Chornovil to five years in prison, but he was released in 1983.

Chornovil found political life in independent Ukraine frustrating. In January 1993, in response to the perceived threat of a revival of the former Communist system, Chornovil united with rival nationalist leaders in two other parties to form the Anti-Communist and Anti-Imperialist Front of Ukraine.

The fractious nature of post-Communist politics hit Chornovil's own movement. Rukh split a month ago amid bitter divisions over policy and what some members said was Chornovil's authoritarian leadership. After the split, Chornovil continued to head a half of the party he called Narodny Rukh Number One. By then, Vyacheslav Chornovil's influence was already on the wane.

FELIX CORLEY

Vyacheslav Maksymovich Chornovil, politician: born Erki, Ukraine 24 December 1937; married Alena Pashko (two sons); died Boryspil, Ukraine 25 March 1999.

Behind the Hollywood myth of evil aliens

MUCH OF the meaning of Holy Week is uncannily up-to-date even though so much has changed between the biblical culture and our own. What is uncomfortably close to home is its reminder of the reality and persistence of evil. For the evil that was a key part of the death of Christ still exists today. And it still attempts to overcome the good.

It is not difficult to see the existence of evil. Millions of people are its victims; harmless citizens maimed through landmines, youngsters who become commodities in the international prostitution trade, people starving through wrong decisions by others, children abused by parents, women beaten by their partners. In every part of the world there are those who are used and discarded by others who do not care. The perennial problem of evil has never been a problem of whether evil exists but why and why its power is so strong.

It does not take much of a theologian to recognise that evil has something to do with human beings, and not just particular human beings but all of us. The benign idea that some of us are part of a great majority of essentially good people is simply over-optimistic. Although it's reassuring to be told that there is really a nice guy inside whatever wrong we actually do, or whatever destruction we wreck on others, we are living with delusion if we believe it. Similarly, Hollywood attempts to identify evil with aliens or newly revived prehistoric monsters may be entertaining but they lack credibility. What possible evil could aliens bring into the world which is not here in multiple forms already? No, in the real world that we live in, evil is with us and in us.

It crouches at the door. It waits for the narrowest gap and enters without knocking. It cannot be pushed into outer space or masked by pleasant bonhomie. Many saddened unbelievers would concede that here, at least, Christian orthodoxy is absolutely right. If we

say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

It is also evident today that evil is contagious. It spreads faster than any disease. It is communicated by mouth. It is passed on by exposure to the bad attitudes of others. The natural course in our human relationship is to pay back evil for evil; the driver on the motorway cuts in dangerously on the driver of another car who has previously cut in on him; the terrorist group guns down a father of four in a retaliatory killing. The human ego finds it hard to absorb the sins of others and much easier to

sophisticated language for talking about it. Concepts like "profitability" or "greater choice" can conveniently mask things that on a different evaluation would just be wrong. So we can ignore the mass human misery which follows our trade in arms, or our deals with dictators, for it is better that we have transactions which are profitable rather than lose our competitive place in the world. We can ignore the problems of children growing up with instability and breakdown, for it is better that we adults choose what suits us, rather than have our freedom and happiness sacrificed.

But it has all been said before. We recall it in Holy Week. "It is better that this man die than have the nation destroyed." Better that this man die? What better world is that? And what better world do we now have with today's justifications?

The sobering message of Holy Week is that we can all come to love evil and hate goodness. We have seen that truth illustrated in broken bodies and wounded lives throughout the centuries, in war, holocaust, genocide, and human destruction. It is an intrinsic part of our own contemporary world.

But, if this message of Holy Week is relevant today, so also is the other one. It is that evil does not have the last word. For it has been fully exposed for what it is, not justified or made benign, but confronted and disarmed. In refusing to pay back evil for evil Christ did not pass it on, fuelling the fires of hatred. He soaked it up, showing us that the goodness of God is more powerful than all the sin in the world.

The implication of this is enormous. It is that ultimately our human significance is not defined by the wrong we do, but by God's love for us. So we have a choice how we shall live. The real tragedy comes when we find it easier to live with the evil than with the love.

Elaine Storkey is president of the Christian development agency Tearfund and is a member of the General Synod

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

BURY: Shirley Joan, 25 March 1999, unexpectedly but peacefully. Wife of John Morley, much loved mother of Matthew and grandmother of Nathaniel and Benjamin. Funeral at St Pancras Cemetery Chapel, High Road, London N2 on 7 April at 2pm. Flowers to C.R.S. Funerals, 133 High Road, N2, or donations in memory of Shirley Joan to either Dr Lipkin's research on Alzheimer's disease or to the Royal Free Hospital, Royal Free, Pond Street, NW3 2QG, or to Metabank Department, Victoria and Albert Museum, SW7 2FL.

STAFFORD: Phyllis Diane, 27 March 1999, aged 84 years. Greatly loved wife of the late Wellington Richard (Dick), deceased mother of Veronica, David and Lawrence, and loving grandmother of seven grandchildren. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Church, Walsingham, on Wednesday 21 April at 12 noon. In lieu of flowers, donations if so wished to NSPCC, c/o B.C. Fisher & Son, 15-17 High Street, Caterham CR3 5UE.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Herb Alpert, musician, 63; Professor Patrick Bateson, Provost of King's College, Cambridge, 61; Mr Richard Chamberlain, actor, 64; Mr Sydney Chaplin, actor, 73; Mr Robbie Coltrane, actor, 49; Sir Roger Cook, former Lord Mayor of London, 82; Mr Alan Duncan MP, 42; Air Marshal Sir Herbert Durkin, 77; Mr Don Prester MP, 52; Mr John Fowles, novelist, 73; Mr David Heneker, composer and lyricist, 59; Miss Shirley Jones, actress, 68; Mr John Kemp-Welch, chairman, Stock Exchange, 63; Sir Paul Lever, ambassador to Germany, 55; Sir Pat Lowry, former President, Institute of Personnel Management, 79; Mr Ian Mackley, High Commissioner to Ghana, 57; Sir Derek Pattinson, former Secretary-General, General Synod of the Church of England, 69; Air Commodore Helen Renton, former Director, WRAF, 68; The Right Rev Dom John Roberts, former Abbot of Downside, 80; Mrs Daphne Robertson, Sheriff of Glas-

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: René Descartes, philosopher, 1596; Andrew Marvell, poet, pamphleteer and politician, 1621; John Harrison, horologist, 1693; Franz Joseph Haydn, composer, 1732; Andrew Lang, scholar and poet, 1844. Deaths: John Donne, poet, 1631; John Constable, painter, 1837; Charlotte Brontë, novelist, 1855; Jesse Owens (James Cleveland), athlete, 1980; Enid Bagnold, novelist, 1981. On this day: in Paris, the Eiffel Tower was inaugurated, 1889; British coalminers went on strike, 1921; the Soviet Union

LECTURES

National Gallery: Colin Wiggin, "Orazio Gentileschi (v): Orazio Gentileschi and the Caravaggisti", 1pm; The Rev Nicholas Holman, Alexander Sturgis, "From Exodus to Eucharist", 6.30pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Valerie Holman, "The Changing Concepts of Form in Sculpture", 3pm. British Museum: Helen Glaister, "Emperor Qianlong and the Great Collectors of China", 11.30am.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, attends receptions for young people who have reached the Gold Standard in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at St James's Palace, and, as Patron, attends an Outward Bound Trust Dinner at Buckingham Palace. The Prince of Wales undertakes engagements in Surrey; and, as Patron, Welsh National Opera, attends a performance of *Hamlet* and *Great Expectations* at Sadler's Wells Theatre, London ECL.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

HELEN DE FREITAS

A Memorial Service for Helen de Freitas will be held on Saturday 15 May at 11am at the Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ, 615 W Wellington, Chicago 60657, USA. Enquiries 0171-435 0502.

DINNERS

Foundation for Science and Technology Lord Jenkin of Roding. Chairman, was in the chair at a Foundation for Science and Technology lecture and dinner discussion held yesterday evening at the Royal Society, London SW1. The Earl of Selborne, Professor Burton Richter and Professor Julia Goodfellow spoke on "How Interdisciplinary is the Science Base?"

You ask the questions

(Such as: Trevor McDonald, have you ever sat behind the news desk in a jacket and tie, wearing jeans and trainers underneath?)

Trevor McDonald, 59, is the presenter of the recently launched *ITV Evening News*, moving on from *ITN's News at Ten* which he presented for nine years. He has won the Newscaster of the Year award twice and was awarded the OBE in 1992. He began his television career back in his native Trinidad in 1962, and now lives with his wife and son in London.

What is your favourite drink, and why?
Kerry Martin, Teeside
Curiously enough, it's water. I've become a great fan of sparkling water. Of course, I do like elegant drinks like champagne and the occasional whisky, but I think I would miss water most of all if it were taken away.

Was it your idea to stand up and move around rather than sitting behind your desk as you read the news?
Daniel Fackwood, Barnstaple, Devon
It was not my idea and I don't move around. We thought it would be nice to see more of our attractive new set - hence the standing position after the commercial break.

Who is the most irritating person you have interviewed?
Joan Howarth, Wimbledon, London
I've been terribly fortunate in never interviewing irritating people. In any event, they would make terrible interviewees.

Were you surprised at Prince Charles's outrage at *News at Ten* being replaced by the *ITV Evening News*? Did you think the move was a good idea?
Campbell Fraser, Ipswich, Suffolk
I was not surprised that Prince Charles talked about *News at Ten* moving, because the programme became a national institution. Our purpose now is to make sure the 6.30pm *Evening News* does the same.

Have you come into contact with racism, institutional or otherwise, during your career in television?
Nigel Graves, Cambridge
No.

What different character traits in yourself and your brother led you to have a serious broadcasting job with an English



accent and he to have a fun radio job [in Canada] with a Caribbean accent?
Sean Lineham, Highgate, London
I think we both speak in very much the same way, with an emphasis on good language, clarity and accessibility.

Have you ever sat behind the news desk in a jacket and tie, wearing jeans and trainers underneath?
Rebecca Percy, Stroud, Gloucestershire
No - I am boringly conventional.

When was the last time that you caught a bus?
Margaret Anderson, Harrow
I genuinely cannot remember.

Some people feel that all that matters now in television is the race for money and ratings. Do you agree?
Deborah Haynes, Acton, London
I do not believe - but neither does *ITV - Will Lewis, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire*
every television channel makes prog-

rammes because they want them to be seen by as many people as possible.

Do Jon Snow's ties represent a daily challenge to you?
James Riddle, Stonebridge Park, London
No. We each have our own distinctive taste in ties.

What is your favourite sport, and why?
Will Lewis, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire
Tennis. This is because I play the game

every week and I am beginning to convince myself that I'm getting better at it. And can I say I like golf and cricket, too?

The scandal over the Vanessa show has proved that we can't believe everything we see on television. Is it true that even news stories are sometimes fabricated?
Gary Kemp, Shenfield, Essex
Never. We may not always get them right, but we must always try to be fair, accurate and well-balanced in everything we report.

NEXT WEEK

GRIFF RHYS-JONES,
FOLLOWED BY
IAN BOTHAM



SEND questions for the actor and comedian Griff Rhys-Jones and cricketing legend Ian Botham, to: You Ask the Questions, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL (fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail yourquestions@independent.co.uk, by 12 noon on Friday 2 April

What were your impressions of Glenn Hoddle when you interviewed him? Do you think he is guilty of maligning disabled people?

Chris Maitland, Godstone, Surrey
I thought Glenn Hoddle was an honest, decent man who probably expressed himself terribly badly. I did not form the view that he set out to malign disabled people.

How do you plan to celebrate the millennium?
Beverley D'Souza, Bedminster, Bristol
Unfortunately, I think I shall be working.

What was the first record you bought?
Kelly Gardner, Ladbroke Grove, London
It was something by either Pat Boone or Elvis Presley, I forget which.

If you could host any television show, which one would you choose?
Laura Staff, Crouch End, London
I am already doing it - the 6.30pm *Evening News*. I also like doing *Trevor McDonald Meets...* on *ITV2*.

What is the most difficult news story that you have had to cover?
Julie Cavanagh, Linton, Cambs
Before the Gulf war, I went to Baghdad to interview President Saddam Hussein. It was probably one of the most difficult assignments I have ever had.

Watch out: you've got evil mail

The next time you log on may be your last: thrill-seeking virus creators are at work again. By Charles Arthur

MONDAY MORNING was not pleasant for Jennifer Mehlow. "I came in and I had 213 nasty e-mails attacking me," she said. On the previous Friday, she had received an internal e-mail that appeared to come from one of her work colleagues at the PR company Fleishman-Hillard in Austin, Texas. But on opening the attached document, she found a list of hundreds of porn sites on the Web.

Like any well-trained corporate American, she reported the incident to her computer systems manager: clearly, the colleague was guilty of sexual harassment and porn viewing at work. However, the real damage had already been done. Ms Mehlow was just one of thousands of victims of the Melissa computer virus: while she was gasping in outrage at the porn list, a program embedded in it - called a "macro" - was raiding her electronic address book and forwarding the same document to the first 50 names there, many of them technology reporters. They were the source of the angry e-mails, not the colleague.

No surprise that she got rude replies. Anyone who received the e-mail and opened the attached message could inadvertently spread the virus. Thus hundreds of companies and organisations including financial institutions, military bases and even (to his embarrassment) the governor of North Dakota, were hit.

Since Melissa can spread only by exploiting the flaws in the newer versions of Microsoft's Word and Outlook Express e-mail programs, the *schadenfreude* among the unaffected was heightened by the news that Microsoft itself was hit. The company shut down its external e-mail system for some hours while it made sure the virus could not propagate within or from it.

Yesterday people were counting the cost: Star Internet, a British Internet access company, reported that e-mail activity had dropped substantially compared to Monday. Its conclusion was that companies were simply shutting their e-mail systems off from the outside world.

For anyone who heard Bill Gates pontificating last Friday at the London Business School on the merits of giving companies a "digital nervous system", the last few days were a sobering reminder that better technology is not always good news. Mr Gates, head of Microsoft, ex-



Threatening a screen near you: in 'Ghost in the Machine', a computer virus assumes physical form

tolled the idea of letting everyone in a company swap information digitally, and suggested that the ideal would be the elimination of paper - almost achieved at his company.

Faced with that unleavened optimism, the arrival of Melissa - which was probably beginning its odyssey around the world as Mr Gates took the stage - demonstrates an increasing weakness that pervades modern computer systems. In biology, if the members of a herd are too genetically similar, a single disease can wipe them out. Ditto with computer systems: as Microsoft becomes increasingly dominant, the users of its programs are open to weaknesses that they may not know exist - until it is too late.

Thousands of companies today rely blindly on Microsoft's word processing and e-mail packages. But for anyone with a sense of mischief, writing a mini-program (called a "macro") that is embedded in a document and does what Melissa does is the work of a few hours.

Efforts to track down the virus author began soon after the first copies of "list.doc" (the website list) were identified as the virus-carrier. Netizens rapidly decided that the author's name was John Holmes, that he was running Windows 95 or Windows 98, and was connected to a net-

work. They also knew who made the network connector. That information was extracted from the document itself - automatically inserted, without the user's knowledge, by Microsoft Word (a revelation that caused outcry a few weeks ago).

If "John Holmes" is the culprit, he probably is not a power-crazed maniac, as in Ernst Stavro Blofeld, sitting in state stroking his cat. More likely he will be a teenager, who spends most of his time in his bedroom, undisturbed by his Midwestern American parents, who is fascinated by computers and especially in controlling them. His motive is not to get rich; it is to get noticed by his peers - other virus-writers.

"Most virus-writers are adolescents with a point to prove," says David Ensm, an anti-virus specialist. "They're usually bored and frustrated and they take on virus-detectors to try to prove how clever they are. Most are very competitive, but lose interest in their early twenties."

Attachments gave rise to the "macro" virus, developed within Microsoft by a freelance. Though his identity is unknown, he apparently realised one day in 1995 while tinkering with Microsoft Word that he could create a virus-like program using its macros. Called "Frank" or "Concept" by virus-cataloguers, its first recorded appearance is on a CD-Rom sent out in early 1995 by Microsoft to program-developers.

The corporation has always been uncomfortable about the fact that first DOS and Windows, its world-swallowing operating systems, and then Word, have been so prey to virus-writers. In 1996 Stuart Anderson, then Microsoft UK's support services manager, said: "To consider taking out the functionality [that makes macro-viruses feasible] would be a step back. I mean, can you have too much functionality?"

After this weekend, you would tend to answer: yes. By yesterday there were at least three new "strains" of Melissa whirling around, one named "Papa" and using Microsoft's Excel spreadsheet rather than Word to propagate, and copying itself to 60 people rather than 50.

If nothing else, the problems of macro-viruses have shown the weakness inherent in Microsoft's dominance of both business software and home PCs. Many people are paranoid about downloading files from the Internet - a fear which hoaxers exploit by creating messages that warn: "If you get an e-mail entitled JOIN THE CREW then don't open it, it will destroy your computer! Send this message to 50 friends to warn them too!" The only difference about Melissa, of course, is that it automates the sending process.

Meanwhile the anti-virus business has become a worldwide industry worth hundreds of millions of pounds.

But while it is the virus-writers who create the potential for damage, to some extent the users and the writers of the software have to shoulder some blame. If Word macros could not automatically access the electronic address book, Melissa would be impossible; if the e-mail program could not automatically open a document; and so on. "Sure, the problem is the default settings Microsoft puts in," said Jack Clark of Network Associates International, an anti-virus company. "But people want functionality. We always encourage people to change the defaults."

In the end, virus-writers will always find a way in - especially with more and more inexperienced users who want less and less involvement with their machines. To quote a comment spotted on the Internet yesterday: "If you make it idiot-proof, they will make a better idiot."



THE IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

35. URBAN CHIC BY KATE MULVEY

WALKING DOWN the street the other day, I did a double-take. Had the war spread to central London? A blonde babe wearing camouflage combat trousers and a fleece jacket was talking into her mobile phone, looking more Kosovo than Bond Street. A couple of Soho film producers in bright yellow Prada Gore-Tex jackets looked like they should be putting out a fire rather than enjoying a business lunch.

Urban utility wear, which started out as an anti-fashion statement reserved for the loved-up E generation, has come out of the trip-hop clubs and on to the catwalk. Cutting-edge fashion designers have gone Pac-a-Mac crazy. For its spring collection, Prada sent models down the catwalk in neoprene walking skirts and trekking boots, and those sometime purveyors of sophisticated style, Louis Vuitton and Ralph Lauren, have gone cagoule mad. Instead of smart jackets and lacy cardigans, it's Millets meets army surplus store.

Otherwise sensible girls with perfect hair and make-up swan around the Met Bar, China White's and other trendy watering holes in sleeveless Puffa jackets and shapeless track pants looking as if they're about to attend a militant feminist meeting rather than giggle and drink champagne.

What's happened to good old sex-on-legs clothing? Oh, you remember: plunging necklines and stockings from Agent Provocateur begging to be torn off in a frenzy of sexual desire? Am I the only Nineties chick without anything with storm flaps or a goose-down lining?

Of course, my hip sisters will say, I am missing the point. Nike walking boots and North Face Puffa jackets are not about denying one's sexuality, they say: it expresses the post-feminist nonchalant attitude to dressing. The modern urban chick is relaxed about her sexuality; she doesn't need to display her wares in an overtly sexual manner. Why teeter on stilettos when you can slouch in a pair of Birkenstocks?



Utility girl: Nicky Appleton of All Saints. Big Pictures

Clothing to me means sexual power. On the Continent, no self-respecting woman would be seen without her figure-enhancing *tailleur* or four-inch heels. To her part of being a woman is about dressing up and creating glamour.

Of course, unisex dressing is nothing new; women have been adopting male clothing since the Twenties when Coco Chanel encouraged women to wear loose-fitting trousers. But these were feminine and fluid, and flattered the female form. Similarly, the militant feminists of the Seventies swanned around with a copy of *The Female Eunuch*, dressed in mannish suits with wide-lapelled shirts and waistcoats (remember *Charlie's Angels*?). The aim was to reconstruct male clothing to show the female form to advantage.

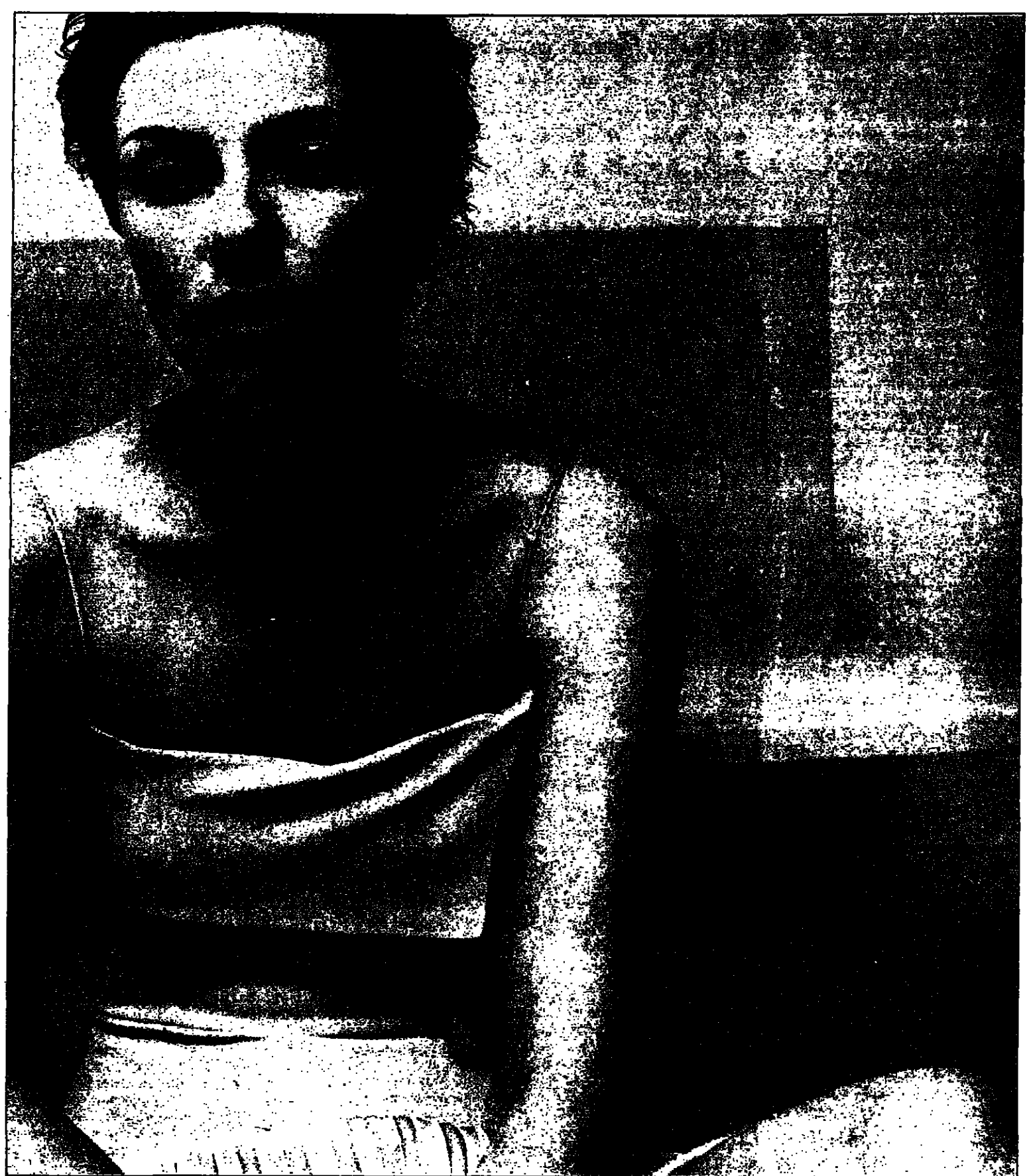
I am not advocating a return to the prim and proper Fifties, when a woman's only assets were her petite waistline and cordon bleu cooking skills. But Girl Power is not just about the choice to wear what you want, but to be, you know, a girl.

JP 11/15/0



Dress, £90, by French Connection, 249 Regent Street, London W1 (enquiries 0171-399 7200); floral coat, £1,420, by Paul Smith Women (enquiries 0171-379 7133)

They call me mellow yellow



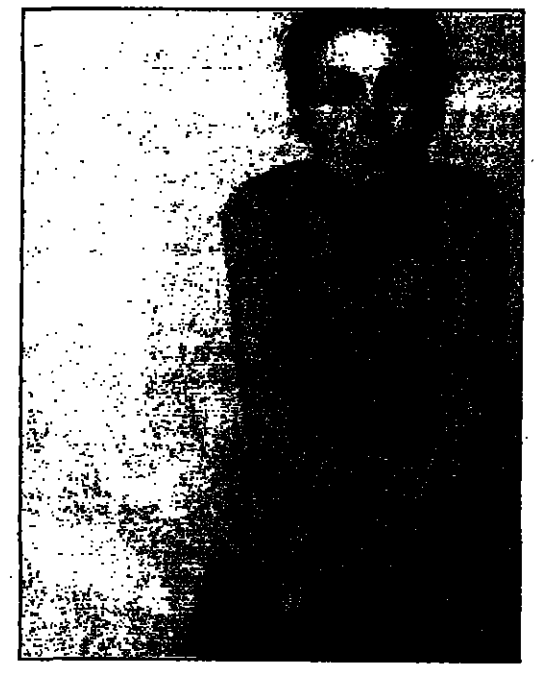
Top, £495, by Owen Gaster, from Selfridges, Oxford Street, London W1 (enquiries 0171-580 9984); satin sunray pleat skirt, £165, by The Scotch House, 84 Regent Street, London W1 (enquiries 0171-495 5767). Photographer: Anna Stevenson. Stylist: Holly Wood. Hair: James Mooney at Paul Windle, using Bumble and Bumble. Make-up: Firyal Arnel, using Lancôme. Model: Mairead McHugh at take two

Avoid the sulphurous and wear it washed out – and you, too, can carry off the season's hottest colour. By Rebecca Lowthorpe



Left Gingham shirt, £140, by Paul Smith Women, 41 Floral Street, London WC2

Right Jumper, £69.95, by Karen Millen, 262-264 Regent Street, London W1 (enquiries 01622-664 032); check skirt, £35, by Warehouse (enquiries 0171-278 3491)



If you don't like colour, you have a fashion crisis on your hands this season. Sorry to cause alarm, but this is not one of those insignificant trends aimed at fashion's underground movers and shakers. This is a surging, all-encompassing movement that targets everyone, whether you shop at Westwood or Warehouse, Marks & Spencer or MaxMara.

Designers have fallen head over heels for colour – vivid, eye-popping colour, that is. Fuchsia, emerald, aquamarine, coral, turquoise, melon, ruby, lilac, crimson... you get the picture.

Call it a fashionable whim, an inevitable backlash to the interminable seasons of grey, or a last-minute surge of optimism at the end of the century. For whatever reason, sludge is out, colour is in – and with a vengeance.

Alarm bells started to ring when the trivernate masters of monochrome – Calvin Klein, Helmut Lang and Tom Ford at Gucci – smattered their usual slick but sober catwalks with throbbing shades of neon pink, electric blue and splashy tropical flower prints. The fashion editors blinked hard behind their black shades, quivered with excitement in their black uniforms and promptly started buying up the world's stock of brightly coloured pashminas.

But for even the most colour-friendly fashion editor, there is one spectrum that is causing widespread panic – yellow. From Marni's egg-yolk felt skirts to Martine Sitbon's sulphurous sunflower shell tops, to banana silks at John Rocha and By-blos, yellows are regarded with deep suspicion. Is there any wonder? Yellow seems to endow most complexions with a deathly pallor. It's the difference between the bilious look of the Norwich City Canaries and the Brazilian national football team who, in their dynamic yellow kit, look the picture of health.

Still, if there's any time to try out yellow, it's now. After all, this is the season of fluffy chicks, daffodils and, of course, Easter eggs. "It's a great colour for Easter, especially if you want to be recognised in a crowd," says Caroline Bennett of Color Me Beautiful. "And it's good for cheering yourself up, too." What's more, it doesn't have to be a violent strain of yellow. As the pictures on this page prove, yellow – of the palest, most interesting variety – can look, well, pale and interesting.

Paul Smith, never a designer to put anything on the catwalk that won't work in real life, tried out a shade he calls "washed-out lemon", which he says illuminates even the milkiest of skin tones. "It's a warm shade that gives a fresh and optimistic feel after so much deadening black, which now looks so dated." His advice is to keep sharper shades away from your face and wear softer tones with pure white or dusty pastels. (Check out his custard-cream duster coat dappled with pink roses, above.)

Owen Gaster may hail from the other side of the design tracks to Smith, but even he refused to inflict us with a searing yellow at his spring/summer show. "I know yellow can look dodgy on white skin, but this milky lemon shade gave a softer spin to my collection," he says thoughtfully. But does this 29-year-old designer wear yellow himself? "Yeah. One of my favourite jumpers is a yellow Pringle, but I only wear it on Sundays."

"You've got to be brave to wear yellow," says Gaster, who adds that the key to wearing bright yellow is to match it with an equally strong red. His tip is simply to "wear it with confidence."

Where designers lead, the high street follows, in this case cautiously. "Don't wear it from head to toe!" laughs Lucinda Lee, head of design at Warehouse. "It's not a difficult colour to wear if you mix it with others – black, denim or white. Whatever you do," she warns, "wear it in moderation." Warehouse's range includes strappy vests, fitted cotton shirts and knitted twinsets in the softest primrose.

Karen Millen, the mistress of sharp tailoring on the high street, is never one to shirk from the hottest vibrant colour trend. She says the way to make yellow look fresh and modern is to wear it with pale greys (see, last season's wardrobe will still come in handy) and sporty blacks but it "looks sharpest and strongest as an accent to clean, stark white."

So, the experts say it's possible. If you follow their advice you won't end up resembling a big chicken or looking jaundiced. And looking on the (bright) side of things, next season's big colour trend is orange. Now there's a tricky colour...

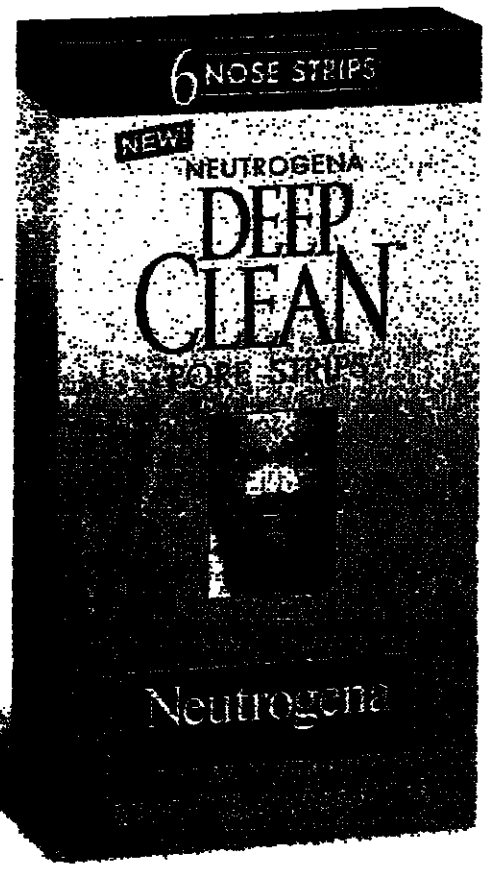
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The praise lavished on *Little Voice* could take Jane Horrocks to Hollywood superstardom. As if she'd want it. By David Thomas

The mother of all Bubbles

The first time I met Jane Horrocks, I didn't take to her at all. The second time I met her, I practically fell in love. Such are the psychodynamics of the interview. My first was in September 1995, in the dressing-room of a photo-studio. Jane sat opposite the mirror. I was perched to one side. We did our best to maintain a conversation while a make-up artist flittered around her face. She was about to open as Lady Macbeth in Mark Rylands's production of the Scottish play. "I'd say that 85 per cent of the productions I've seen of Shakespeare have been abysmal," she proclaimed, with regal authority.

The RSC tradition, she said, encouraged snobbery and elitism. The idea that actors required training to speak blank verse was "Bollocks! It's just bollocks." But the Rylands production, in which Horrocks's Lady Macbeth would urinate, live on stage, was going to break new ground. "I did *Macbeth* at Rada and I always wanted to do it professionally, but with the right person. There's no point playing Lady Macbeth unless you respect your Macbeth, and I really do respect Mark."

The more I heard, the more I suspected that this would be sort of theatrical décalé that only *Macbeth* can engender. Sure enough, the production was thoroughly panned, and Horrocks has recently been reported as saying that the experience of her nighty wee put her off stage acting for good. But if her feelings about *Macbeth* have changed, there are other aspects of her life and character that must surely have stayed the same.

"I learnt the art of acting quite early on," she said. "I could wrap my parents round my little finger, but I had two brothers who were quite tough going, so I had to fight for attention. They put me in my place. It used to be, 'Oh shut up, Jane, yer bloody thick.' But they are more in awe than they used to be."

She didn't want to discuss her then boyfriend, the theatre director Sam Mendes, and seemed on the cusp of some sort of personal change. "I think I was quite ambitious when I was in my twenties, but now I'm looking for something else. I'm just not as satisfied as I used to be by things. I get bored really, really quickly. I'm not naturally contented. I wish I was, but I have a very vivid imagination and unless that's used, I get really frustrated."

Now out to February 1999, I met Jane Horrocks again in a restaurant in Twickenham. This time we were discussing *Hunting Venus*, an insubstantial but enjoyable TV movie about an Eighties New Romantic pop group, reunited for a comeback show by their sole remaining fans, a pair of lesbians, one of whom is Horrocks. It stars Martin Clunes and Neil Morrissey and was scripted by the 37-year-old screenwriter Nick Vivian, Horrocks's partner and the father of her two-year-old son.

Now deep into the third trimester of her second pregnancy, she had just the neat-



Jane Horrocks: Jennifer Saunders had only to exaggerate her natural character to create Bubble in 'Absolutely Fabulous'

David Sandison

est of bumps to suggest her condition. (A daughter, Molly, was born 10 days ago.) And across a small table, something became apparent that had not been obvious at my previous side-on interview: she is ravishingly pretty with huge blue eyes set in a delicate, elfin face. Not that this was of any use to me, because those eyes spent most of the time looking at Nick Vivian, sitting next to her, with the mixture of amusement, adoration, possessiveness and absolute openness that women reserve for those whom they truly love.

"It's such a relief not to be talking about *Little Voice*," she said. The couple were just back from attending the Golden Globes awards in Hollywood. Horrocks had been nominated Best Actress in a Comedy for her performance as the Northern wallflower who can sing like Garland, Holiday and Bassey, but she lost out to Gwyneth Paltrow. They'd sat at a table a few feet from Jim Carrey. The whole place had been teeming with superstars. "That sort of hype is so alien to the world as we know it," said Jane. "You can only stand open-mouthed. And the speeches are downright embar-

assing. What have Mum and Dad and your brothers and sisters got to do with the film? And thanking God - it's pitiful."

The occasion had given her no desire to go West in search of superstardom: "Airport photographers caught us getting off the plane from L.A. I never thought it would happen to me, so I'd made no effort. Imagine what it must be like having to spend two hours in the loo before you land, preparing for the cameras."

Outside it began to rain. Jane peered anxiously through the window. "I'm worried about my washing," she said. "I'm a washing obsessive. If Steven Spielberg called up on laundry day and offered me a film I'd say, hang on a second, I'm doing my wash."

And if a big Hollywood star wanted her as his on-screen partner? "I'd depend what the script was like. If it's rubbish, what's the point?"

Er... money, usually. She grimaced. "Money's not my thing."

In these more relaxed circumstances, both Jane's wit and her comic timing became more evident. It was easy to see how

Jennifer Saunders had only to exaggerate her natural character to create Bubble in *Absolutely Fabulous*. We started talking about *Hunting Venus*. Nick Vivian had been toying with the story for years. At the start, Jane was just an actress whom he admired, but who kept turning down offers to appear in things he'd written: "Two things," she interjected. "And one of them was for charity." By the time he finally sat down to write, they were living together. (The thing that made the difference to their relationship, Nick said later, was drink.)

As he wrote, Nick discussed his new script with Jane. Or, at least, he tried to. "I always used to show Jane bits and bobs of what I was writing, but I've learnt not to do that any more - there's an immediate response of boredom," Horrocks. "He reads them out to me in a pompous fashion. I'd rather read it on the page." Vivian: "She's right. It's much better to keep my trap shut until it's finished." A pause, then Horrocks again: "He's not an actor, then all's said and done." She, like every one of the film's thirtysomething cast, had fond

memories of the New Romantic era. "I remember going to this club in Ribchester, where I lived, called the Lodestar. They played Bryan Ferry, Bowie and a bit of Adam Ant. It was such a weirdo period, but very exciting. There was a threat in the air about those clubs - well, there certainly was about that one. They used to hit people with bits of wood."

"I did a fashion show for a local hairdresser called Tony Winder. He dyed my hair pink and did it all up à la New Romantic and he'd roped in these other three girls who were proper punks and really quite hard. So they came down the catwalk to Bow Wow Wow and everyone was silent with fear. Then I came dancing down and they all roared with laughter. I went, 'Why? I look hard as well. I look tough. Why are you laughing at me?' I was furious."

Talking about the making of *Hunting Venus*, Jane recalled that she watched the England vs Argentina World Cup match with Neil Morrissey, in the hotel where they were staying while on location. Morrissey had spent the entire game agonising about his career.

"I was in the Soho House with Kathy Lloyd that night," interrupted Nick Vivian. "Feeling her busts," said Jane.

"I wasn't..."

"You were feeling her busts brushing against you."

Vivian defended himself. "When Sol Campbell scored, I flung my arms round Kathy, only to realise that she had turned round, so I had one hand on each breast. I said, 'I'm terribly sorry, Kathy.' She said, 'It doesn't matter, we've scored.' So when it was disallowed I felt like a terrible old fraud. But she didn't seem to mind..."

"That's his story," said Jane, in mock indignation.

I paid the restaurant bill and we went out into the south London drizzle. Jane and Nick needed to buy something for supper. I last saw them wandering off in search of a butcher. None of the passers-by recognised the tiny blonde in the baggy coat. Jane Horrocks didn't seem to mind that at all.

'Hunting Venus', tonight, 9pm, ITV

Closing time, gentlemen, please

THE VERY idea of a Status Quo pub tour seems appropriate. After all, the East End boys made good have done little more than purvey the most straightforward boogie for more than 30 years now.

The idea of playing a series of dates for long-serving fan club members in such venues as this - a shrine to heavy rock where the likes of Iron Maiden started out on their road to world domination - makes a lot of sense. Basic music in basic surroundings - it has to be better than the vile bars such as the NEC and the Wembley Arena, venues that positively discourage drinking and dancing, and generally getting any, er, rocks off.

The Nineties have hardly been kind to the Quo. Hits have tailed off, and their attempt to sue Radio 1 in 1995 after a pretty limp remake of "Fun Fun Fun" with the Beach Boys was left off the play list (a bemused

POP
STATUS QUO
RUSKIN ARMS,
MANOR PARK, LONDON

Brian Wilson was seen on *The Des O'Connor Show*, skulking at the back and looking as if he'd rather be in rehab than on stage), came across to many as a publicity stunt that backfired. But although their appeal may have become more, uh, selective over the years, they're still as much a part of British culture as jellied eels and the Queen Mum, two other things that many people could happily do without.

Their influence, however, is undeniable, if unconscious. How many aspiring musicians must have watched them on *Top of the Pops*, thought "I could do that" and improved on the template? At the height of the Britpop Wars, the Quoasis T-shirt

sold by the Mancunian pretenders was a knowing nod to detractors.

The "home of heavy metal" must be smaller than the rooms Quo rehearse in. But the crowd - clearly unaware of denim's unfashionability - lapped them up in their natural surroundings. For at a distance of 30ft or less, these 50-somethings still rock, or boogie at least.

Francis Rossi (as ever sporting a ponytail and grandad shirt) looked more comfortable than his long-time cohort Rick Parfitt (tanned, wearing a gold guitar pendant, and looking less than awed by his surroundings). "Again and Again", "Sweet Caroline", a medley including "Mystery Song" and "Wild Side of Life" that defies critical analysis were all neat, noisy and intact.

Yet the years roll on. An unexceptional "Rocking All Over The World", which must have funded a few law-



Status Quo's influence is undeniable if unconscious Tom Craig

suits for its author; the legendary American curmudgeon John Fogerty seems perfunctory. As they rushed through a verse each of Fifties rock'n'roll classics as an encore, you

felt time closing in on them. Ashes to ashes, pubs to pubs.

STEVE JELBERT
A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

Whoops! Apocalypse

DREAMING BEGINS with cannonfire. Boom Boom. Later: "There's a fly in my soup." "I'll get a spider." Boom Boom.

This is the kind of juxtaposition Peter Barnes loves. Irreverence is his trustiest weapon, and, as the lead character Mallory says, "nothing is sacred or powerful unless you make it so". Thus Christ steps off a crucifix to kvetch about his father, and Skelton, who longs for death, rails against the spring: "All that renewal."

Barnes's model tone, and imagery, draws upon the sardonic grotesquerie of Brueghel and Bosch and this new play is set in the apocalyptic closure of the Middle Ages, specifically after the Battle of Tewkesbury, 1471. The Wars of the Roses pauses to gasp for breath, and Mallory, a saddened captain, sets off for home. His companions are the reluctant survivor Skelton, Davy, a mercenary boy, Bess who knows the world is too weary for her hard-bitten wisdom, and later Kell, a priest who has defrocked himself.

Although the home and family Mallory abandoned have been destroyed, Mallory continues what becomes a metaphorical quest in which home becomes "Home". Acquiring a new wife on the way, he and his band battle on.

They traverse an horrific, symbolic landscape brilliantly realised in Stephen Brimmon-Lewis's design, with its glass floor where the dismembered dead are buried like specimens in a case. Under Alan Burrett's lighting this becomes by turns a skating lake, a swamp and a river. Even so the play's allegorical weight becomes hard to bear, not least because the work contradicts itself in

THEATRE
DREAMING
ROYAL EXCHANGE
MANCHESTER

both style and substance. Skelton says life is a journey; Davy says it is a race; Bess says it is a dance. Led by her, they then perform a beautiful little sand shuffle. In that hint of Wilson, Koppel and Betty is the irreverence again, and dancing which is graceful, pointless and may on one spot is the right metaphor for this vision.

But Barnes finally lays more stress on Mallory's sacred journey, and despite Gerard Murphy's imposing, welled presence, the character is empty, has little to say and ends as a surprisingly romantic hero slumped upon a snowy peak, fixed forever in the icy fastness of the purity of his vision. If ever there was a moment for Boom Boom - or Bert Brecht - this is it.

Yet when the comic cannonfire is at its thickest there are plenty of misses. In the first long 70 minutes, although Barnes's extravagant imagination is pedalling hard, and the costumes waving frantically, director Matthew Lloyd never seems to lift the show to a manic enough level. The best moments are in the acting: Greg Hicks's saturnine Skelton, Paul Jessop's pained joviality as Kell, Richard Bremner's lanky Crouchback and, best of all, a performance of wonderful ease and subtlety from Diya Laye as Bess, really the play's most interesting character - its true Mother Courage.

JEFFREY WAINWRIGHT
To 10 April (0161-833 9833)

The Passion retold in minimalist form

JONATHAN HARVEY is a composer whose range of interests includes the Sanskrit *Rig Veda*, electronic music, Stockhausen and the theosophy of Rudolf Steiner. On Thursday at St John's Smith Square, however, the focus of his work turned powerfully on to a subject whose resonance is as old as it is central to the European tradition: the Easter story.

At this time of year, choirs and orchestras need no excuse to tell out the myth as superbly recounted in Handel's *Messiah* or the Bach *Passions*. Easter, after all, is the essential Christian festival, and what with the re-paganisation of Christmas into a mid-winter orgy, perhaps the only one that remains uniquely spiritual in

CLASSICAL
JONATHAN HARVEY
ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE
LONDON

its concern with the full meaning of the Incarnation. Top marks, none the less, to those valiant upholders of contemporary music, Sinfonia 21, for daring to programme a modern account of the Passion. Harvey's religious drama, *Passion and Resurrection*, written in 1981, and predating the revivalist mood of more recent works by so-called "faith minimalist" composers.

Passion and Resurrection began with the simplest of liturgical mater-

ial: part of the communion rite from the Book of Common Prayer, "do this in remembrance of me", sung in John Merbecke's 16th-century setting by members of the BBC Singers, conducted by Martin Neary.

The 11 sections that flowed from this opening each followed the pattern of scene and interlude. Urgent telegraphic paraphrases of events in sung dialogue preceded no less pungently elliptical depictions of events set in terms of instrumental music. These latter, that of the seizing and binding of Christ, for example, were late-Stravinskian in flavour: feral bundles of biting and scratching solo strings set at odds with one another in registral extremes.

In contrast, the evening's other characteristic sound was that of the musical "halo", whether of delicate violin harmonics enrobing the majestic voice of Stuart McIntyre's Jesus, or the shining organ clusters that accompanied the congregational singing of the plainsong hymns *Pange Lingua* and *Veni Lili Regis*.

If Judas was for Elgar the figure of human interest in *The Apostles*, then for Harvey in *Passion and Resurrection*, it was Pilate who assumed a rounded dimension, in so far as the schematic form allowed. Tightly controlled, the drama, which existed as much in the pauses and violent dissolves between scenes as within them, was cumulative, resolving itself

into the final episode, "The Resurrection Garden". Here, in music dominated by Alison Smart's Mary Magdalene, and the Tippett-like radiance of Christ's closing monologue, the crux of the story was apparent: physical regeneration not dreamed of in heaven, but occurring somewhere downstairs in our reality.

Whether or not your disbelief was willingly suspended, the ending was impressive: a final blessing, then echoing fanfares from trombones, horns and tuba processing through the audience and outside, via church doors flung open to the four winds, the four elements, and the four imagined corners of the world.

NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

JP 11/10/99

End of the winter of discontent?

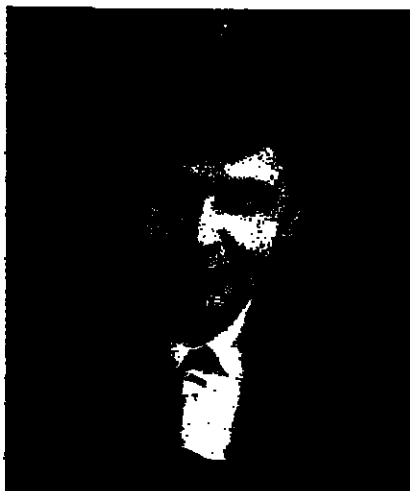
Accused of lacklustre acting, mediocre direction and poor leadership, can the Royal Shakespeare Company recover its credibility? Artistic director Adrian Noble gives a rare interview to David Lister

The real dramas often take place backstage. One occurred at the Royal Shakespeare Company earlier this year. Adrian Noble, by far the most shy and reserved of the institution's four artistic directors over the past 34 years, lost his cool.

It has been a difficult three years for Noble. He has endured what he considers to be a campaign of vitriol since he took the RSC away from London for six months of the year. Productions have been accused of mediocrity, the acting company has been accused of a lack of charisma, and Britain's foremost classical company has been accused of having an unclear policy platform. Noble suffered in silence. He gave virtually no interviews, though privately he was bewildered at the lack of acknowledgement of his efforts to modernise the company and widen the repertoire; his plans to rebuild the main house in Britain for the benefit of audiences, actors and directors; and his success in taking the company to towns in Britain that had never seen the RSC.

Then one attack too many made even this most languid of individuals blow a fuse. A Sunday newspaper critic wrote that the company had suffered a dismal falling-off and could not attract top-class actors or directors and that there were fatal flaws in leadership. Noble wrote to him at his home address saying he was "angry and appalled", and played him for "unsubstantiated title-tattle, inaccuracies and half-truths". When I met Adrian Noble in his office at the Barbican for his first wide-ranging interview for a long time, he was still resentful about the criticism. However, the too-familiar glow of consistently good reviews for the company's opening shows brings a lustre to the "new confidence and vigour" he discerns in the company.

"I have been radical in what I have done," he said, "but I have had three years of criticism. And, yes, I do believe it is because of my decision to move the company out of London."



"The critics are against modernisation. It has been a bumpy three years. The agenda was to create new energy. I believe that was a vital task. We can now programme more flexibly and tackle issues more creatively in terms of casting, touring and repertoire."

"The fact that it created ructions internally and externally is no surprise. I did find it surprising that a lot of journalists found it difficult to address the broader agenda. I think there has been a feeding frenzy in the press at the expense of the RSC which has led to quite a number of unjust attacks on its productions and actors."

"Stephen Pollakoff says that if he does a play at the National Theatre, they write about the play. At the RSC, half of the review is about the RSC's policy. There's no question that the critics' agenda is our leaving London. But what we have done has become government policy."

"The Government is interested in quality, but also in who sees the work. I've never regretted the decision to leave London. It's opened up the repertoire."

Most importantly not just for what it says about the repertoire but for what it says about how audiences now need to be coaxed into Shakespeare, Noble is insistent



Aidan McCordle and Sirine Saba in this season's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; left, Adrian Noble



on opening up the main stage at Stratford to non-Shakespearean productions, as he did last year with *The School for Scandal* and the show that has had a huge impact on his whole philosophy, his production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

"We did a lot of research on *Lion* and it attracted 80,000 newcomers. Of those, 60 per cent were youngsters. It's fantastically important to get young people into the theatre, to own it, to celebrate it. *Lion* has been amazingly good for the company. In the main house, we always had just Shakespeare and we rarely did anything that was just for families. From now on, every season will have something purely for the family audience."

It is, on the one hand, a depressing admission that despite the euphoria surrounding Shakespeare in *Lone*, the real thing now needs gateway family shows to draw in new audiences. But on the other hand, if the productions are as well received as *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *The School for Scandal*, then it could be an effective route into Shakespeare.

Should we not be absolutely honest and admit that it is becoming harder to get audiences to come to Shakespeare? Noble pauses for a long time.

"Look, Shakespeare is trickier than *Blitz*. But it's to do with how we teach people at school. Shakespeare isn't easy stuff for young people. Of course it isn't. Theatre-going needs to be a habit and teaching needs to be as imaginative as possible."

On the latter point, he intends to lead the way. Last week, the RSC received a basketful of good notices for both *Volpone* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. But for Noble the most significant event of the week related to his vision of the company's educational role. He signed up Clare Venables, principal of the Brit School of Performing Arts and Technology and former director of the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, as his new head of education.

It is a high-profile appointment that affirms his new and wider remit.

Noble becomes visibly excited as he says: "We will have demonstrations, lectures and many more show-related events. I would like, as part of our rebuild, to have an education centre in Stratford. Imagine one you could spend a day in: in the morning do a voice session with Cicely Berry, see *Romeo and Juliet* in the afternoon, then pull down from the digital archive four versions of *Romeo and Juliet*. Of course, you'd do Baz Luhrmann, but you'd also lis-



ten to Peggy Ashcroft do it, then talk about it. The tip of the iceberg is the performance. At the moment we have no education centre; we hire a church hall. It's pathetic."

On stage, one of the more hurtful criticisms must have been that the standard of verse-speaking had fallen. Noble came into the job in 1991 pledged to improve verse-speaking. He acknowledges the difficulties caused by the lack of proper classical training in drama schools. But he has instigated the most intensive work on verse-speaking in the company's history - weekly three-and-a-half-hour verse-speaking workshops for the entire company. And while it is hard not to look back nostalgically just a few years to a company that included Simon Russell Beale, Robert Stephens, John Wood and Amanda Root, Noble is adamant that the new arrangements are attracting high-calibre actors again.

Some critics have detected a change in company ethos, most notably in Robert Lindsay's show-stealing *tour de force* as Richard III.

"I think it's unfair," says Noble. "The personalities of all the cast were complementing what Bob was doing. The summer season is the centre of our work, and that's a company that's no different from the

companies we have had in Stratford for 38 years."

And what of those who disagree, arguing that at times the quality does not run right through the company, a point made in private by directors as well as critics?

"I don't know how to answer that," says Noble. "I didn't find that in the company that did *The Tempest* or *The Merchant of Venice*. I watched the run-throughs of *Volpone* and the actors were wonderful."

After a long and steady battering, Noble can now look with satisfaction at the statistics. Three years after "leaving" London, the RSC has in the past year been seen by more people at various London venues than it was over a similar period in its full-time Barbican days, and the new Stratford season has taken £2m in bookings.

"The company is demonstrating great vigour and self-confidence," he says. And, casting himself a trifle bizarrely as a dramatic Kevin Keegan, he believes the nation will rally round.

"I don't go to football, but I support the national team. I want people to feel that same ownership of the RSC."

A Midsummer Night's Dream and *Volpone* at the RSC Stratford (01789 295623)

ON THE FRINGE

STAND UP OLD RED LION ■ UP AGAINST THE WALL TRICYCLE
LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT ORANGE TREE

WHEN SO much hustling and tussling goes on in the dressing-room, it's surprising that performers and productions ever make it to the stage. It's more astonishing still when, going by the shambolic rehearsals for a blaxploitation musical depicted in *Up Against the Wall* and the bitchiness of a shabby comedy club in *Stand-Up*, life on the fringe is such a painful one.

Hopefully, Roy Smiles didn't extract his material from his experience as a comedian and compère when writing *Stand-Up*. Most of his characters are obnoxious egotists. The unhappy clown is a much-used motif, but Smiles doesn't settle for easy clichés; however bitter his comedians feel about their audiences, careers and lives off stage, it can't decrease the buzz they get from performing.

The gritty script is littered with recriminations, shocks and regrets. On one level, it simply compares the perilous ambition and heartlessness of the successful comedians Linda and Tony with the newcomer Debbie's naïveté and the circuit regular Mal's combination of stoicism and defeatism. The fact that these people can put their real feelings aside, go on stage and make others laugh is as depressing as it is remarkable.

More impressively, *Stand-Up* is an emotive paen to the things people will do to survive. Harry, the club's glibbish barman (a little Robert Murray), is reduced to unblocking excrement from the ladies' toilet because he needs a job. His incredulous remark that "I come from a shit hole, but you don't expect it to be a life sentence" resonates grimly.



'Up Against the Wall'

Roy Smiles's sharp, engrossing production is beautifully acted by a cast who look at home, yet uncomfortable in Nina Garner's painstakingly designed, skanky dressing-room. There aren't many laughs but, when they come, they rattle with irony and gleam with poignancy. As Smiles's own mockney club owner might put it, this one's a corker.

Up Against the Wall at Kilburn's industrious Tricycle Theatre is heaps of fun but less dramatically successful. Felix Cross and Paulette Randall claim that drama isn't the point of their irreverent musical about putting on a musical like the play within, it's simply an excuse for the actors to don Afro and flares and sing hits from the Seventies, which they do exceptionally well.

This would be more believable were the script less carefully contrived. There's no stunting on corniness as the lyrics to each song are made relevant to a character's life. The tone grows questionably moralistic when Clinton Blake's drunken director Courtenay bursts into his production wearing a preacher's gown and takes a spill from the mouth of the bumptious actor Vincent,

otherwise vibrantly performed by Mark McLean.

Thought-provoking moments are few but poignant, particularly Vincent's spine-tlinging paean to Brixton, which shifts into a topical but gentle rap about police racism. If the crowd were so inclined, the night could develop into one rollicking party but Black Theatre Co-operative's light-hearted production needs more meat to satisfy.

By contrast, *Low Flying Aircraft*, the second production from the Orange Tree's new company, is almost too serious in its endeavour to criticise modern life. In its formidable future, London is an annex to Heathrow Airport, inhabited by disturbed people who control every waking moment with pills. Liam and Cody's minimalist home, elegantly designed by Tim Meacock, is at once a haven from the planes that roar and flash overhead and a prison of fraud and misunderstanding emotions.

Jane Cole's characters are intriguing and Jeremy Crutchley's dislikable but riveting Cody holds an unsettling power over them all; his mind games with Sarah Tansey's irritating Tara bristle with tension in Dominic Hill's edgy production. But the surreal denouement is unconvincing and the chilly nature of the play doesn't encourage emotional engagement with the characters.

MADDY COSTA

'Stand-Up' (0171-337 7816), to 17 Apr; *'Up Against the Wall'* (0171-338 1000), to 17 Apr; *'Low Flying Aircraft'* (0181-940 3633), in rep to 24 Apr

To mike or not to mike

The National Theatre is facing a huge scandal over its use of microphones. And not just for musicals. Whatever happened to proper acting? By David Benedict

EARS WERE pricking up yesterday at the shock news that actors performing in the National Theatre's Olivier auditorium are now required to wear radio microphones.

The most astonishing thing about this is that this technological "advance" has been established practice in this venue for at least 18 months. This means that either actors there have been barred from discussing it (deeply unlikely) or that there is more to this story than meets the ear.

The idea of using gadgetry to compensate for poor vocal technique goes against everything the profession holds sacred. Directors who refuse to go "on the record" - they want employment at the National in the future - have expressed outrage. The voice, they rightly argue, is at the heart of dramatic expression.

Learning to breathe properly to project sound, and combining that with clarity of diction in order to "hit the back wall", is central to actors' training. Is it really time to say goodbye to all that, as would appear to be the case with the news that Trevor Nunn's production of *Troilus and Cressida* is wired for sound? Miking a singer to compete with an amplified rock band in a musical is one thing, but Shakespeare?

It was in fact Nunn's predecessor, Richard Eyre, who began this. He temporarily closed the Olivier to redesign it for an in-the-round season in 1997 and at the same time fitted the System for Improved Acoustic Performance (SIAP).

As the National's sound designer Paul Grootuis explains, this system, installed around the walls, manipu-



'Troilus and Cressida' is wired for sound

Geraint Lewis

lates the sound. "It has got nothing to do with intelligibility. It merely corrects the acoustical problems of the Olivier."

Nearly every theatre in the country has dead spots, and the vast Olivier is no exception. Even the most perfectly produced voice cannot be easily heard from certain parts of the auditorium. If you clap or say a word, you produce an echo. In the Olivier, the reverberation from the initial sound tends to drown out the echo, thus muddying the effect. You cannot reduce the echo but SIAP clarifies the effect by enhancing the proportions of the latter sound.

The admittedly convincing argument runs that it is no longer good enough to pretend that there aren't acoustical bad seats in the auditorium. The benefits, Grootuis be-

lieves, are enormous. "It becomes more comfortable to listen to. People can then concentrate harder and longer, and understand more."

The downside is that the microphones have to be in prominent places and are very sensitive. That places enormous limitations on the use of stage machinery as even a low hum can destroy the effect. In tandem with SIAP, all sorts of solutions were sought but Grootuis believes that, much as he hates them - "they're a pain in the arse" - radio mikes seem to be doing the best job.

Both directors and the whole sound department were nervous at broaching the idea of mikes with actors as vocally strong as, say, Ian McKellen, who wore one for *An Enemy of the People*. "There is initial shock," admits Grootuis, but he

claims that after reports back from friends and associates, they realise that this is not a case of amplification beyond recognition.

"I don't amplify. It's about distributing the sound around the auditorium, putting the actor's voice in a box and moving it to the back of the auditorium." He does, however, concede that they occasionally nudge the sound level up. "But only for crucial technical reasons. If an actor turns upstage, I would never do it with an actor facing the audience." For him, it is a technical tool, somewhat akin to using a sound effect like adding a cavernous echo.

So far, so good, but the danger is that we may be on the edge of a precipice. In this theatre, the system may currently be used responsibly to overcome architectural shortcomings, but what of the future?

It's similar to the opera surtitles debate. Projecting text above the stage is clearly a boon for those who don't know an opera, but it stops you watching the action. In which case, why should a singer struggle to communicate real drama when he or she could just stand and deliver?

Theatre is increasingly reliant on screen stars, many of whom have small voices at best. If someone on the sound desk can twiddle knobs in order to lift their performance into a different realm, there's little incentive to work to reach an audience.

Everything depends on the subtlety of its application. In America, theatre has succumbed to wholesale amplification. Let's hope the National's usage of it doesn't signal the beginning of the end.

My stage in the City

I WORK FOR...

JOANNA FYVIE IS PA TO JOHN TUSA, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE BARBICAN CENTRE IN LONDON

Having graduated in French and music, I was torn between the two subjects, but my first job made the decision for me when I was made junior secretary to Jeremy Isaacs at the Royal Opera House.

It was an amazing introduction. I learnt how to be a sounding-board and I realised the importance of allowing bosses to do their job by giving them an environment in which they can be themselves, vent their frustration and express their enthusiasm. Jeremy was demanding, especially since he always needed everything done immediately, but I respected his energy, drive, directness of thought and broad range of interests - an aspect that John shares. I certainly got a taste for working with VIPs.

My next job was a two-year stint with the managing director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The temperament of an orchestra is quite different from that of an opera house, particularly when it is nomadic. I had to deal with 150 people, which made it hard to make attachments. It was also sometimes difficult to communicate financial or strategic issues to the players.

I moved to the Barbican just after John had been brought in to rebuild the centre in terms of both confidence and artistic structure. I knew there would be high expectations and I was almost overwhelmed by the vastness of the centre; but I was attracted by the amount of artistic achievement it offers, both visually and musically. I was surprised that John was present at my first interview, because I hadn't expected to meet him at all at that stage. He struck me as being genuinely interested in me as a person rather than just a recruit.

There's always an opportunity to learn with John, partly because he has such a broad range of interests. He communicates well with me, whether it's when he's briefing me or sharing ideas. As we've built up our working relationship, he has started to include me in his thought processes. Three years on, I think he has realised my potential.

Feeling able to give my opinion when it's appropriate has enriched my work and I have realised that, as a PA at this level, I have a duty to ask why some things are deemed to be so important. Questioning is crucial when working with a VIP because once you can understand the way someone thinks, you begin to know how to work autonomously. There's a lot I am now able to do on my own, including drafting responses. John gave me an appraisal the other day and I realised

how much I genuinely love being a PA and the sense of fitting in to this environment. Even answering the post gives me a broad range of people to speak to, from arts world people to City executives.

The phone is a constant, particularly now that the Shadow Arts Council has just been announced with Sir Peter Hall as chair and John as one of two vice-chairmen. I was aware of the idea evolving and had a sense of people saying something important about diversity and freedom of opinion in the arts. There's been loads of interest in the new organisation, particularly as it represents a group of people who came together informally when they felt that the arts were not being adequately reflected in the public arena or relevant institutions. The support panel includes Jeremy Isaacs, which is lovely because it means that we stay in touch.

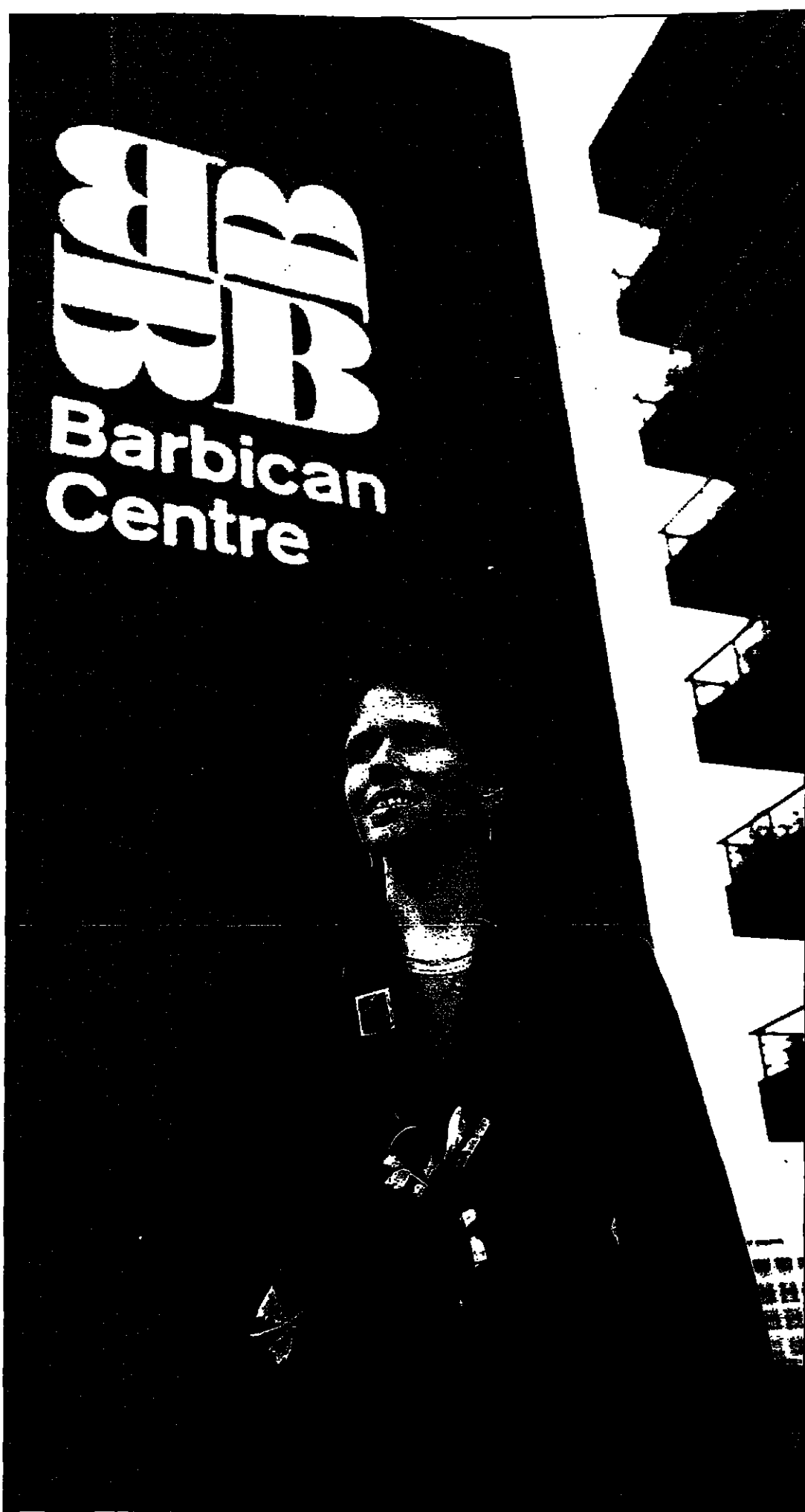
Last week we also launched "Cityside", a new name to describe the area the Barbican is in. This concept was the result of a meeting between John and the heads of Sadler's Wells and City University during which they complained that while we have terms such as "West End" and "South Bank" there has never been a title for this general area, despite the fact that it is full of art and culture. Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, gave his approval by coming to the launch, and we already have widespread support and enthusiasm from people in the area.

For the last two years I have been involved in John's soon-to-be-published book called *Art Matters*, in which he deals with a whole range of art-related subjects including funding, and where culture fits into life. I've followed the book's progress both by typing out some of the manuscripts and by attending some of the lectures from which the essays have been taken.

John and I share a sense of humour, which I delight in. I feel that there is a high that comes from our working relationship and rapport as well as from organising things such as receptions for important people in the arts world. I got married last year and although I see family and work as quite separate, it was natural to me that I should invite him and Paul Findlay - my former boss from the Royal Philharmonic - to the wedding. They both came, and I was glad that they were there.

When we were looking for an administration assistant, John told me he had a dream that I walked into the office with the new assistant, who turned out to be my double. I must be doing something right.

INTERVIEWED BY
KATIE SAMPSON



Joanna Fyvie: 'Three years on, I think John has realised my potential'

Mark Chilvers

What happens to 'nice boys'?

SO MY mother gets on the phone and has one of her periodical bouts of sighing and wondering what happened to all the nice young men I used to know when I was at school.

It's funny how quickly parental fantasy kicks in; the nice young men she remembers are her friends' sons, and boys she approved of, who lived around the village and spent their holidays playing tennis and killing small animals - rather than the ones who spent their holidays sitting on the bench at the bus stop, smoking. Once I'd got my Saturday job and had enough cash to get into town, I didn't really know boys of either sort, having discovered others who sat around in basements coming down from their exposure to the club scene the night before. But my mum longs for the Ruperts and Rolys, and has convinced herself that these were my social circle then.

So she asks what happened to them all, the implication being that I've gone down in the world; and I think about saying, "Well, Mum, they're either using the furniture-making or horticultural skills they learnt in the frightfully expensive rehab clinics they ended up in after three years at Oxford, or they're getting up at 6am and putting on suits, and are looking from companionship either with women who are on similar income levels or with ones have dedicated their lives to learning the skills that make them an ideal helpmeet. What they don't want to be doing is hanging around with chicks who spend their time filling in for other people's holidays." But I just say something palliative about how people lose touch, and let her drift off to prune the roses.

In fact, there was an occupation I missed off the list, and that's estate agency. I should have remembered it, as I'm putting in time at the moment with South Kensington's premier realtor (their words, not mine), Investment Estates, and I can honestly say that I had no idea you could fit so many plans in one month without choking. I know estate agents had a tough time of it in the recession, but they've bounced back now, with a vengeance.

And not surprisingly, the upper classes have, after all, to find something to do with their less gifted younger sons now



THE TEMP

that the Church doesn't deal in tied livings much any more. And besides, the sort of people who are looking for a nice house in the Peckham Street area are still generally of the make-up that has problems trusting people with an accent.

So I find myself working for four snake-like professionals whose lack of accent is so powerful that I find myself jumping out of my skin every time one of them shouts "Yah!!". These people are so accidentless that most of their words run together in a big jumble because they've forgotten both to take time to breathe or to use consonants; if you remember the late Diana, Princess of Wales's pronouncement that her premarital job was looking "after a mera bay boy" you'll get the basic drift. I don't know what my mum would have to say about these young scamps, but no one really seems to do much apart from fight each other to answer the phone when it rings in case it's someone calling to offer them a weekend involving fresh air and guns, and occasionally saunter from the office twirling a set of keys round their index fingers and come back a bit later with a stack of insults about the client.

I do a bit of light typing ("Superb three-bedroom mansion flat ideally situated for the shopping amenities of Brompton Cross and close to the open spaces of Hyde Park") and a bit of light telephone-answering "Good morning, Investment Estates, can I help you?". I think I'm in for an easy ride. There's one problem, though, and that's the name game. I can cope with Henry, Charlie and Caro, but I still have to fight the urge to giggle when anyone rings and asks for Candida. Maybe the name runs in her family, but I suspect that Candida's parents, coming from a class that calls its daughters all sorts of vagueish things, may have just thought it sounded nice. Maybe, just maybe, they called her sisters Eczema, Psoriasis and Salmonella for the same reason.

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NEW FILMS

AMERICAN HISTORY X (18)
Director: Tony Kaye
Starring: Edward Norton, Edward Furlong
Disowned by its director, re-edited by its star, *American History X* was always going to look messy; a film in bits and pieces. A liberal essay on right-wing fanaticism, this nonetheless indulges in some dubious Nazi chic as it charts the moral slide and spasmodic conversion of a blue-collar racist (Edward Norton), watched by his adoring younger brother. The flashbacks sometimes jar, and the plot turns are clankingly handled. What binds it together is a genuine *tour de force* from Oscar-nominated Norton, whose full-throttle muscularity clearly scared wavering Academy members over to the more sunny charms of Roberto Benigni.
West End: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

AN AUTUMN TALE (CONTE D'AUTOMNE) (U)
Director: Eric Rohmer
Starring: Beatrice Romand, Alain Libolt
The final part of Rohmer's *Tales of the Four Seasons* is at once airy elegiac and as warm as sunshine. Magali (Beatrice Romand) - middle-aged and single - gets ushered through all manner of hoops as her friends try to set her up with eligible men, nudging her first towards suave college professor (Didier Sandre), then towards a lonely-hearts respondent (the brilliant Alain Libolt) as the web of intrigue turns progressively more tangled. Don't be put off by the Mills and Boon plot-line. Rohmer's latest is a veritable masterpiece of dabbled-on colours, fluid squiggles and luminous washes. Its little gestures speak volumes; its easy soul takes the breath away.
West End: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Curzon Soho, Renoir, Repertory: Phoenix Cinema, The Pullman Everyman

GODS AND MONSTERS (15)
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Fulham Road. Local: New Stratford Picture House

MIGHTY JOE (PG)
Director: Ron Underwood
Starring: Bill Paxton, Charlize Theron
Mighty Joe is a mutant gorilla - King Kong with a smile - who hangs out in the jungles of Africa with his Tarzan-type protector (Charlize Theron). Enter zoologist Bill Paxton, who decides to spirit Joe to California, at which point Ron Underwood's holiday jamt diverts down standard chase-genre avenues. Disposable Disney fluff, which boasts a ready charm that's hard to dislike.
West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys. And local cinemas

PAYBACK (18)
Director: Brian Koppelman
Starring: Mel Gibson
This rumbling revenge thriller sends its double-crossed-and-left-for-dead anti-hero (Mel Gibson) on a mission to retrieve the money he's owed, and get even into the bargain. The ensuing shenanigans are played out in a kind of retro-chic Seventies and underpinned by a busy jazz-funk soundtrack. Ambling through the saga, Gibson rubs lots of designer grime into his clean-cut screen image.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THE RUGRATS MOVIE (U)
Director: Igor Kovalyov
Voices: E G Daily, Christine Cavanaugh
Given the small-screen success of the 'rats, a feature-length foray was always in the offing. Neatly timed to hit the Easter holidays, *The Rugrats Movie* shifts its horizons beyond the usual suburban homes and gardens. Here, the bairns find themselves adrift in a deep, dark forest, bonding with monkeys and tangling with a slaving wolf. Kids, no doubt, will eat this up. Adults should simply grin and bear it.
West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

GENERAL RELEASE

AFFLICTION (15)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: ABC Swiss Centre

APRILE (12)
Nanni Moretti's *Aprile* freewheels through three years in Italian politics. Impossible to pigeonhole, with its realist-absurdist rhythms, it bows out with a finale that's both ridiculous and charming.
West End: Metro, Renoir

ARLINGTON ROAD (15)
Mark Pellington's paranoia thriller sees Jeff Bridges' college professor becoming suspicious about his "respectable" neighbour (Tim Robbins). Pellington is big on skewed camera angles, yet rings too few changes in the film's familiar territory.
West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

BELOVED (15)
Jonathan Demme's adaptation of Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize-winner stars Oprah Winfrey.
West End: Ritzy Cinema. And local cinemas

CENTRAL STATION (15)
A road-movie of sorts. *Central Station* trails Fernanda Montenegro's retired schoolmarm and her abandoned nine-year-old charge on a hunt for the boy's missing father.
West End: Curzon Mayfair, Notting Hill Coronet, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema. Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre

FESTEN (THE CELEBRATION) (15)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Curzon Soho

HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK (15)
Shirley Valentine with an Afro-American spin: Angela Bassett works hard to make an impression among the tourist-brochure visuals.
West End: Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA È BELLA) (PG)
In Roberto Benigni's Oscar-winning comedy, the writer-director takes centre stage as a clownish Jewish bookseller in fascist Italy. Sent to a death camp, he strives to convince his son that it's all a ruse to save him from the gas.
West End: Empire Leicester Square, Curzon Minerva, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Repertory: Phoenix Cinema. And local cinemas

A NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY (15)
John Fortenberry's indulgent showcase for *Saturday Night Live* favourites Will Ferrell and Chris Kattan is so bovine it moos. Here come our imbecile heroes: cruising the mall-spaces of L.A. while one ham-fisted comedy sequence follows another.
West End: Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

PATCH ADAMS (12)
This medical drama is like the ultimate distillation of the ultimate Robin Williams movie: a life sucked out and replaced by syrup.
West End: Empire Leicester Square, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

PLEASANTVILLE (12)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (15)
Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning Second World War drama, starring Tom Hanks.
West End: Plaza, Local: Croydon Fairfield Halls

SEUL CONTRE TOUS (18)
A sociopathic butcher (Philippe Nahon) is pushed over the edge when he finds out that someone has abused his daughter. Less straight cinema than a kind of whiplashing fairground ride, *Seul Contre Tous* is an undeniably attention-grabbing debut for the multi-talented director Gaspar Noé.
West End: Curzon Soho, Ritzy Cinema

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

THE THIN RED LINE (15)
Terrence Malick's long-awaited return to the director's chair is a fabulous, fever-struck war film. While a cast of familiar faces (John Travolta, Nick Nolte, George Clooney) vie for attention, all play a determined second fiddle to *The Thin Red Line's* creeping narcotic mood.
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas

THIS YEAR'S LOVE (18)
A cast of Britain's finest (Kathy Burke, Ian Hart, Douglas Henshall et al) weave to and fro through David Kane's Camden-set essay on urban romance.
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

URBAN LEGEND (18)
A bland and inconsequential bloodbath: fresh-faced teens meeting their grisly end in a drama as cold and schematic as a daytime talk show.
West End: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

VERY BAD THINGS (18)
Peter Berg's debut serves up swaggering gross-out comedy in a *Loaded* magazine style but it has nowhere to go save from shrill to shriller.
West End: ABC Piccadilly, Warner Village West End

WAKING NED (PG)
Good news: Ned, a salt-of-the-earth resident of Tully in rural Ireland has won the lottery. Bad news: Ned is dead. Cue a rattle-bag of comedic misadventure as two local scallywags scheme to get their paws on the loot. The film has a zesty undertone of black comedy but is too air-brushed for its own good.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG)
Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan star in a romance zapped out of its rut by an Internet plot hook.
West End: Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Gods and Monsters (15)
A droll speculation on the last days of 1930s horror *auteur* James Whale (Ian McKellen), who is magnificently by the form of his gardener (Brendan Fraser). Director Bill Condon won an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay.

Pleasantville (12)
Two Nineties teenagers are magicked into the world of a favourite Fifties sitcom and begin to exert a dramatic influence on its conformist black-and-white idyll. A witty, inventive parable.

Festen (15)
Danish director Thomas Vinterberg's supertative black comedy centres on the 60th birthday of a family patriarch who finds himself at the heart of dark secrets that unexpectedly emerge.

Affliction (15)
Paul Schrader's bleak study in fatherhood and fatalism stars Nick Nolte as a man struggling to escape the influence of his violent dad - James Coburn, in an Oscar-winning performance.

Shakespeare in Love (15)
This enjoyable, multi-Oscar winning film (right) suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*.



ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Troilus and Cressida
(Olivier, NT, London)
This play and its theatre are made for each other, a fact proved by the masterly sweep of Trevor Nunn's production. To 19 May

Gross Indecency
(Gielgud Theatre, London)
The artfully fractured form of Moses Kaufman's compelling play (right) about Oscar Wilde manages to present the writer - man and symbol - in all his complex contradictions. Booking to 3 Jun



Jackson Pollock (Tate Gallery)
Big retrospective for the wild hero of Abstract Expressionism (going on Old Master). The build-up is slow and the end is sorry, but the brief "drip" period deserves every superlative. To 6 Jun

Patrick Caulfield (Hayward Gallery)
The modern object-world made luminous. Caulfield is a virtuoso of many styles, and this retrospective offers the range - notably those fat, laconic outlines flooded with translucent colour. To 11 Apr

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery)
Some of the most intense portraiture ever (right). Exquisite *melanges* of flesh and fabric, dreams of sex and money. To 25 Apr



Andreas Gursky (Dean Gallery, Edinburgh)
Photographs 1994-98: huge, panoramic, high-finish, micro-detailed, digitally-manipulated images of our world - stock-exchange floor, cityscape, hotel foyer. To 10 May

Aubrey Beardsley (Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool)
The short and brilliant career of the 1890s aesthete and illustrator, with his masterful blacks and whites and his uniquely sinuous, florid line. To 11 Apr

TOM LUBBOCK

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC PANTON STREET (0870-902 0404) • Piccadilly
Circus/Leicester Square Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm
Enemy of the State 1.50pm, 5.05pm, 7.55pm, 10.05pm
Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm • (P) 1.30pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322) • Piccadilly
Circus Loved 6.25pm Very Bad Things 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Your Friends and Neighbors 1.40pm, 4.05pm, 6.45pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402) • Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road
Hush 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm
Elizabeth 1.40pm, 5.15pm, 8.20pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0870-902 0403) • Leicester Square/Piccadilly
Circus The 39 Steps (1935 Version) 1.10pm, 3.05pm, 5.30pm, 7.05pm
Spiral Affliction 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm
Hidous Kinley 1.50pm, 4.05pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm
La Vie Revee des Anges (The Dream Life of Angels) 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) • Tottenham Court Road
Gods and Monsters 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.55pm, 9.25pm
Payback 1.45pm, 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm
Waking Ned 1.25pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.35pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-638 8891) • Moorgate
Barbican An Autumn Tale (Conte d'Automne) 6.15pm, 8.40pm
Waking Ned 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) • Sloane Square
An Autumn Tale (Conte d'Automne) 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) • Clapham Common
American History X 1.45pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm
Arlington Road 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-359 1720) • Green Park
Central Station (Central do Brasil) 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

CURZON MINERVA (0171-359 1723) • Hyde Park Corner/Kingsbridge
Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.50pm

CURZON SOHO (0171-734 2255 (12noon-6pm)) • Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road
An Autumn Tale (Conte d'Automne) 2.15pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
Festen (The Celebration) 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm
Gods and Monsters 2.45pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Seul Contre Tous (1 Stand Alone) 1.45pm, 3.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0950-888990) • Leicester Square
Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm
Patch Adams 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm
Spiral Affliction 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 6705) • Notting Hill
Gate Gods and Monsters 7pm, 9.20pm, 11.40pm, 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9pm

METRO (0171-734 1506) • Piccadilly
Circus/Leicester Square April 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) • Notting Hill
Gate Arlington Road 3.15pm, 8.35pm
Central Station (Central do Brasil) 6pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN

(0870-050007) • Camden Town
American History X 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm
Payback 11.45am, 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm
Pleasantville 12.20pm, 2.45pm, 5.10pm, 7.45pm
This Year's Love 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm
Waking Ned 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 9pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (0870-050007) • Piccadilly
Circus This Year's Love 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (0870-050007) • High St Ken
American History X 12.40pm, 3.35pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm
A Bug's Life 12.55pm, 1.55pm, 4.55pm, 7.55pm
Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) 3.50pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm
Mighty Joe 12.55pm, 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (0870-050007) • Leicester Square
The Thin Red Line 12.40pm, 4.10pm, 7.45pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (0870-050007) • Marble Arch
Mighty Joe 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 5.55pm
Payback 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm
The Rugrats Movie 12.55pm, 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm

ODEON MEZZANINE (0870-050007) • Leicester Square
A Bug's Life 12.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm
Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm
Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) 12.45pm, 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (0870-050007) • Swiss Cottage
American History X 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm
Arlington Road 3.05pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm
A Bug's Life 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Mighty Joe 12.45pm, 3.25pm, 5.55pm
Payback 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 11.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm

ODEON WEST END (0870-050007) • Leicester Square
Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) 12.25pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm
Payback 1.40pm, 4.05pm, 6.35pm, 9pm

PEPSI MAX CINEMA (0171-494 4153) • Picc. Circ
Blue Planet 12.35pm Everest 4.45pm, 9.05pm
LS The First City in Space (3-D) 2.40pm, 7pm
T-Rex: Back to the Cretaceous (3-D) 11.30am, 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.50pm, 8pm, 10.10pm

PLAZA (0950-888990) • Picc. Circ
American History X 3.15pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm
Blast from the Past 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm
Waking Ned 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm

RENOIR (0171-837 8402) • Russell Square
April 4.40pm, 9pm
An Autumn Tale (Conte d'Automne) 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm
Central Station (Central do Brasil) 1.20pm, 6.40pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-733 2223) • BR/5
Brixton American History X 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm
Antz 11.10am, 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm
A Bug's Life 12.20pm, 2.40pm, 5.05pm, 8.45pm
The Opposite of Sex 12.10pm, 2.40pm, 5.05pm, 7.25pm, 9.45pm
Payback 11.30am, 1pm, 2pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm
Pleasantville 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm
Urban Legend 7.10pm, 9.40pm
You've Got Me! 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END (0171-437 4343) • Leicester Square
American History X 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9pm
Arlington Road 11.20am, 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm
A Bug's Life 12.20pm, 2.40pm, 5.05pm, 8.45pm
The Opposite of Sex 12.10pm, 2.40pm, 5.05pm, 7.25pm, 9.45pm
Payback 11.30am, 1pm, 2pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm
Pleasantville 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm
Urban Legend 7.10pm, 9.40pm
You've Got Me! 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) • BR/5
American History X 1.50pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.50pm
Blast from the Past 6.10pm, 8.30pm
A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9.00pm
The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9.00pm
You've Got Me! 12.40pm, 5.20pm, 8.00pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-552 2020) • Dag Hammarskjöld
American History X 1.55pm, 4.35pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm
Antz 12.10pm, 1.40pm, 3.10pm, 4.40pm, 6.10pm, 7.40pm, 9.10pm, 10.40pm
Blast from the Past 6pm, 8.45pm, 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm
A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9.00pm
The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9.00pm
You've Got Me! 12.40pm, 5.20pm, 8.00pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-552 2020) • Dag Hammarskjöld
American History X 1.55pm, 4.35pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm
Antz 12.10pm, 1.40pm, 3.10pm, 4.40pm, 6.10pm, 7.40pm, 9.10pm, 10.40pm
Blast from the Past 6pm, 8.45pm, 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm
A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9.00pm
The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9.00pm
You've Got Me! 12.40pm, 5.20pm, 8.00pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-552 2020) • Dag Hammarskjöld
American History X 1.55pm, 4.35pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm
Antz 12.10pm, 1.40pm, 3.10pm, 4.40pm, 6.10pm, 7.40pm, 9.10pm, 10.40pm
Blast from the Past 6pm, 8.45pm, 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm
A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9.00pm
The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9.00pm
You've Got Me! 12.40pm, 5.20pm, 8.00pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-552 2020) • Dag Hammarskjöld
American History X 1.55pm, 4.35pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm
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Blast from the Past 6pm, 8.45pm, 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm
A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9.00pm
The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9.00pm
You've Got Me! 12.40pm, 5.20pm, 8.00pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-552 2020) • Dag Hammarskjöld
American History X 1.55pm, 4.35pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm
Antz 12.10pm, 1.40pm, 3.10pm, 4.40pm, 6.10pm, 7.40pm, 9.10pm, 10.40pm
Blast from the Past 6pm, 8.45pm, 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm
A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9.00pm
The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9.00pm
You've Got Me! 12.40pm, 5.20pm, 8.00pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN

(0171-226 3520) • Angel
Highway & Islington Waking Ned 3.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-435 3366) • Belsize Park
Gods and Monsters 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm

UCI WHITELEYS (0950-888990) • Bayswater
American History X 1pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm
Arlington Road 12.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm
A Bug's Life 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) 12.15pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.50pm
Mighty Joe 1.45pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm
Payback 1.45pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm
The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.05pm
The Thin Red Line 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.45pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA (0870-907 0710) • Sloane Square
American History X 12.30pm, 3pm, 6pm, 8.45pm
A Bug's Life 11.40am, 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm
Mighty Joe 1.45pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm

